



# The Antiquary.



SEPTEMBER, 1899.

## Notes of the Month.

IN the next number of the *Antiquary* we hope to print an illustrated article of some importance on "The Burial Place of King Alfred," by Mr. Warwick H. Draper, B.A., late Scholar of University College, Oxford. The subject has been somewhat neglected hitherto by antiquaries, but Mr. Draper has brought together all the scattered notices and references bearing on the last resting-place of the great King whose memory we shall ere long be specially honouring, and has welded them into a paper of no small interest and value.



Alderman Jacob, of Winchester, writes: "In reference to the paragraph you inserted in your July number, referring to my solicitation of your valuable aid as to information about the laying of the foundation-stone of the palace here by Charles II. on March 23, 1683, as stated in Milner's history and other publications, I ought to have communicated with you and stated that through the zealous researches and correspondence with various authorities by Mrs. Cochran, the wife of Colonel Cochran, commanding officer of the 37th Regimental District, it has been ascertained from authentic records that Charles was at Newmarket on the above date, and that therefore Sir Christopher Wren, who designed the palace, must have laid the stone or performed something akin to that function."

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Referring to a remark in the notice of Dr. Tille's book on *Yule and Christmas*, printed in the review pages of the present number of the *Antiquary*, our reviewer writes: "The county in which servants enter on new situations in November is Derby. A discussion or correspondence on this in the *Antiquary* might be not without value. In some counties the old 'seasons,' in some the equinoctial quarters, are in use, and I can recollect certainly one case (in Staffordshire) where the *arable* land was entered on in March, the *pasture* land being claimed by the outgoing tenant till May. Professor Rhys thought the May and November seasons *Celtic*. Certainly they prevail in many Celtic districts. Hence my remark on Professor Tille's omission of Celtic evidence. I am inclined myself to think the use of the equinoctial divisions probably shows *Roman ecclesiastical* influence, and that the 'seasonal' divisions will be found to have been general among 'barbarian' nations, and not specially 'Germanic.'" The points raised in this note are extremely interesting, and we shall be glad to hear from any of our readers who care to discuss them. It might be well in the first place to record the variations which at present exist in different counties and districts, in the usual dates both of entering farm service and of letting farm holdings.



The *Tablet* of July 22, says: "Some interesting discoveries have been made in Lough Derg within the past few days. As a number of men were engaged in dragging a portion of the lake adjoining Terryglass, four or five miles from Nenagh, for the remains of a man who had been drowned, the search party turned up the splendid head of an old Irish elk in a fine state of preservation, with enormous antlers, the tips of which are 11 feet apart. The teeth are 3 inches long, and when scraped show different colours, resembling black enamel, shades of gold, etc. Many other marvels of ancient times were also brought to the surface. Sergeant Corish and Constable Teehan, of the Carrigahorig Police Station, hooked a gigantic and beautifully made eel-net, said to have been brought from England many years ago, and lost in Lough Derg under strange circumstances.

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The other discoveries included a well-preserved dug-out boat or canoe, supposed to be of great antiquity. The articles are attracting much attention at the Carrigahorig Barracks."



On July 29 the members of the Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society went on pilgrimage to Tong and Fulneck, under the leadership of Professor Federer. At Tong the party, by the kind permission of Sir Robert T. Tempest, had the privilege of inspecting the Hall with its artistic treasures. A visit to the church followed, and thence the pilgrims proceeded to the Moravian Settlement at Fulneck, where they were conducted over the extensive premises, the pleasure grounds, and the God's Acre where some 3,000 departed brethren and sisters have been laid to rest, from the untutored Esquimaux boy Karoick to some of the most eminent men in science, literature, and statesmanship. In the chapel Professor Federer read an interesting paper dealing with the early history of the settlement.



The meetings of both the British Archaeological Association at Buxton and the Royal Archaeological Institute at Ipswich were favoured with splendid weather, and passed off most successfully. A tolerably full account of the Association's Congress appears in another part of the present number, but we have not thought it necessary to give a detailed notice of the meetings of the Institute, as we hope to print in our next issue a special article by the Rev. J. Charles Cox, LL.D., F.S.A., on the exceptional features (of which there were several) of the Ipswich gatherings.



An interesting discovery has been made in a field near the main road leading from Nuneaton to Higham-on-the-Hill. Mr. W. Kendall, farmer, was removing soil from an ancient mound, and when at the depth of about 8 feet a large wooden cross was discovered. It is believed to be of wych-elm, much decayed, and measures 18 feet in length, and over 13 feet between the extremities of the arms. When found, the head was towards the east. According to the Rev. H. Fisher, rector of Higham, "No

burial has taken place beneath the cross, but there is ample room in the unexcavated portions of the mound for some burial of a priest or bishop to have taken place, to account for the erection of the barrow."



During the latter part of July, Professor Flinders Petrie showed, in connection with the Egypt Exploration Fund, at University College, Gower Street, the results of his recent explorations at Diospolis. The collection contained many stone implements—axes, daggers, and other weapons—often similar to those found in Europe, besides wooden bows and flint-headed arrows. Some remarkably beautiful and graceful stone vases were shown, the material employed being in some cases soft, such as limestone or serpentine, but in others very hard, such as diorite and porphyry. Other interesting exhibits from prehistoric Egypt were copies of paintings found by Mr. F. W. Green on the walls of a prehistoric tomb at Hierakoupolis, and quaint figures in clay, ivory and wood, including a doll with a removable wig. Among the miscellaneous articles were pottery, clay toys and stone vases, ranging in date from the Sixth to the Tenth Dynasty, beautiful necklaces of garnet, amethyst, and pale carnelian, with gold amulets, and a little fish in gold and turquoise, all from cemeteries of the Eleventh and Twelfth Dynasties; while of later date was a dagger with ivory handle ornamented with silver rosettes, and bronze blade inscribed with the name of King Suazenra (B.C. 2,000). Of this remarkable dagger only a photograph was shown, as the original remains in the custody of the Cairo Museum.



The Shropshire Archaeological Society has just issued to members Part II. of *Transactions* for the current year. It contains Notes on Albrighton in the nineteenth century, by the Rev. Thomas Priestley, with four illustrations; British Shropshire, by R. Lloyd Kenyon; History of the Mere, Baschurch; the Domestic History of Henry Vynar, 1551 to 1584, with a copy of his will, by the Rev. C. H. Drinkwater; Shrewsbury Abbey—two early charters, edited by the Rev. C. H. Drinkwater; the Parish Registers of Shipton, by the Hon. and Rev. G. H. F. Vane. The

part also contains a number of local documents from the Public Record Office, including Assize Rolls *temp.* John, Early Inquisitions, *post mortem*, and Extent of the Manors of Ellesmere and Welch Hampton in 1280.

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We have received a copy of the subjoined circular, which is signed by Viscount Dillon, Mr. E. Freshfield, Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, Mr. Philip Norman, and other representatives of the London Antiquarian and Archaeological Societies: "For the first time the Church Congress, which has now become an annual institution, is meeting in London. You are probably aware that concurrently with the Congress there has been held for many years an 'Ecclesiastical and Educational Art Exhibition' under the management of Mr. John Hart. The Exhibition has included a 'Loan Collection' of objects of ecclesiastical and antiquarian interest, the character and conditions of which are set forth in the prospectus.

"We recognise the desirableness of making such a Loan Collection, representative of English Ecclesiastical Art generally, with special reference to the City and Diocese of London, and therefore heartily recommend it to the attention of your readers, and venture to invite the Clergy, Churchwardens, and other custodians or owners of ecclesiastical and civic antiquities to co-operate by lending them for exhibition.

"The special provisions made by Mr. Hart to insure the safety of the articles on loan will also be found in the prospectus. The Committees of the respective societies will undertake to see that these provisions are duly carried out, and will employ an additional watchman of their own.

"If any of your readers will kindly lend any objects of interest, we shall be obliged if they would send a short description of them as early as possible to the Secretary, Ecclesiastical Art Exhibition, Maltravers House, Arundel Street, Strand, London, W.C., so that arrangements may be made for their proper display."

It is stated that the greatest possible care will be taken of all objects lent for exhibition; the articles will be watched night and day, and will be insured to their full esti-

mated value, and, *where desired*, carriage will be paid to and from the Exhibition.

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The Newcastle Society of Antiquaries entertained its members and friends at a *conversazione* in the Castle on August 1, in celebration of the fiftieth year of its occupancy of the Keep of that building. In the course of the evening the Duke of Northumberland made a speech, welcoming the guests, and Mr. Cadwallader J. Bates gave an address descriptive of "The New Castle upon Tyne and its Keep." He said the Delian Bridge, thrown over the river in connection with those complex lines that were generalized as the Roman Wall, required a fortress to defend it from the swoops of the northern enemy. In 1080 the Conqueror's eldest son, Robert Curthose, founded the New Castle on Tyne, not as a base of operations in the course of his advance on Falkirk, but to guard the bridge during his retreat. Curthose's new castle was probably little more than a ditch and stockade with a wooden keep on the mount; a hill of earth that was removed in 1811. The castle was taken by William Rufus during the rebellion of Earl Robert de Mowbray, and that King is credited with having done much to strengthen the castle, and with having founded the town as he was known to have done that of Carlisle. The process of substituting stone walls for wooden ones was possibly carried further by Henry Fitz David, Earl of Northumberland. The broad foundations of this Tower of Newcastle were laid in 1172. The plain word tower was, he thought, to be preferred to the very modern appellation of keep, which was first applied to the building towards the end of last century. The distinguishing feature of the Tower of Newcastle, and of its larger and more magnificent development by the same architect at Dover, was that of its being a well-house. At Newburn, and as far as could be seen at Prudhoe, the well was outside the so-called keeps.

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The following letter, which appeared in the Shrewsbury newspapers, explains itself:

"I shall be glad if you will allow me, through the medium of your columns, to answer a question which has been addressed to myself and other members of the Council

of the Shropshire Archæological Society (which forms the local committee for the work), as to what progress is being made in the movement for the further exploration of Uriconium.

"It is unnecessary to point out that in so large a scheme there are many interests to be considered, and many preliminaries to be settled, as well as much money to be raised; but I am glad to be able to inform those interested in the movement that the preliminary difficulties are being solved in a way that is full of encouragement, and the whole matter is fast resolving itself into a question of raising the necessary funds. And in this, too, there is no ground for discouragement. The fact that, as the result of the meeting on May 15, with almost nothing in the way of personal appeal, more than £80 a year for five years has been promised, shows that a wide interest has been awakened; and though this falls very far short of the £500 a year which will be required, it may serve at least to encourage the belief that as the movement becomes more widely known the additions to the fund will be both numerous and liberal in amount. If this belief proves well founded, it is proposed to make a beginning this autumn, as soon after harvest as may be possible. In the meantime, I may mention that the contributions promised—with the hope to continue them for five years—range from £25 a year down to half a guinea; and I have only to add that subscriptions may be paid to the "Uriconium Exploration Fund" at the Old Bank, Shrewsbury, or I shall myself be glad to receive communications on the subject.—I am, etc.,

"THOMAS AUDEN, F.S.A.,

"Chairman of the Local Committee.

"Condover Vicarage, Shrewsbury,

"July 12, 1899."

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We cut the following from the *Times* of August 7: "The John Rylands Library, erected in Deansgate, Manchester, by Mrs. Rylands, and dedicated by her to the memory of her late husband, will be opened early in October. Mrs. Rylands began ten years ago to collect for the library standard works devoted chiefly to theology, philosophy, history, biography, and the sciences generally, and she has since continued to make pur-

chases until between 60,000 and 70,000 works have been obtained and classified. The library in which the collection is to be permanently housed is a magnificent structure, designed by Mr. Basil Champneys, and erected by Messrs. Morrison and Sons, of Liverpool. Two years after the builders had entered upon their work, Mrs. Rylands purchased the famous Althorp Library belonging to Earl Spencer, and, although the books in this collection will be placed unreservedly on the shelves, their identity has, as far as possible, been preserved by the insertion in each of a label indicating the source of origin. The library, as composed by Mrs. Rylands, consists not only of the finest collection of bibliographical treasures in the world (so far as the early history of printing is concerned), but includes also what is believed to be the finest collection of Bibles in existence, ranking in respect of English Bibles next only to the British Museum. A special department has been allotted to these biblical works, and, as far as practicable, a separate division of the library has been devoted to each subject, the books relating to the several topics being distinguished by a special colour of binding. The library contains fifty-one genuine Caxtons. The Aldine collection is believed to be the finest in existence, and includes a large number of volumes on vellum, on large paper, or on special paper. The library will be held in trust, and its government vested in a council of governors, the management being based on broad and liberal principles."

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Messrs. B. and J. F. Meehan, of Bath, announce the early issue of a second series, limited to twenty-five signed and numbered sets, of choice reproductions of unpublished drawings and rare prints of the "Famous Houses and Celebrities of Bath and District," by H. V. Lansdown and others. Each set will contain at least sixteen such reproductions in proof, and in quarto size—uniform in every way with the first series.

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In "Notes of the Month" in our last issue it should have been stated that the note on the sale of the Marlborough collection of gems was taken for the most part from the daily reports of the sale in the *Times*.



## Farther Contributions toward a History of Earlier Education in Great Britain.

BY W. CAREW HAZLITT.

(Continued from p. 210.)

- Thomas Masterson his First [and Second] Book of Arithmetic. 4to., London, 1592. His Third Book, 4to., London, 1595.
- Nowell, Alexander, Dean of St. Paul's: A Catechism, or first Instruction and Learning of Christian Religion. 12mo., 1570. Other editions and a Latin version.
- Tractatus de octo orationis partibus. 4to., W. de Worde, no date, 4 leaves. 4to., R. Pynson, no date.
- Certain brief rules of the regiment or construction of the eight parts of speech. 8vo., 1537. English and Latin.
- An Introduction of the Eight Parts of Speech. 4to., T. Berthelet, 1543.
- A Work on Book-keeping. By Hugh Oldcastle, schoolmaster, 1543.  
I have not seen this original edition; but it was republished by John Mellis in 1581.
- Two Prayers to be taught unto Children at School, which also may be said in Families. 12mo., Edinburgh, 1672.
- Ortus Vocabulorum. Folio, W. de Worde, 1500.  
Founded on the *Cornucopia Linguae Latinae* of Bishop Perottus, 1490. Many later impressions.
- Os, Facies, Mentum, A mouthe, face, a chynne. 4to., Antwerp, John of Doesborch [about 1500]. Again, 4to., W. de Worde, 1508.  
An Anglo Latin vocabulary.
- The English Accidence. By Joshua Poole. 8vo., London, 1655 and (under a varied title) 1670.
- Primarium pro pueris. [1520].  
Mentioned repeatedly in the Account-Book of John Dorne, 1520, but not known to me under this title. In the fifteenth and perhaps fourteenth century there circulated in manuscript lesson-books for children, sometimes on vellum for durability, and comprising the A B C, Lord's Prayer, Commandments, and Creed.
- Primer. The primer in English for Children, after the use of Salisbury. 8vo., London, 1556. Black letter. No printer's name.  
This work is not to be confounded with the liturgical work similarly entitled.
- A Primer, containing a most easy way to attain to the true Reading of English. 12mo., London, n.d. [1710.]
- A Book entituled *Propria quæ maribus* construed, and also *As in presenti*. Licensed provisionally in 1591.
- Propria quæ maribus, Quæ genus, and As in presenti*, Englished and explained. By Charles Hoole. 12mo., London, 1650.
- Promptorius Puerorum. Folio, R. Pynson, 1499. Other editions.
- The Kings Psalter. Containing Psalms and Hymns, With Easy and Delightful Directions to all Learners, whether Children, Youths, or others, for their better reading of the English Tongue. Also Prayers for every Day of the Week, beginning with the Letters of the name of our Sovereign Lord King Charles; And Other observable Varieties, fit either for the School, or for the Closet, all which are profitable, plain, and pleasant. 8vo., London, 1671. With woodcuts.
- The title is followed by the following dedication: "To the Tallest Top-Branch of the Second Cedar in the Royal Lebanon of Great Britain, His Royal Grace, Edgar, Baron Dauntzey, in the County of Wilts, Earl and Duke of Cambridge, Son and Heir Apparent to the Thrice Illustrious Prince, the Most Highly Magnanimous James, Duke of York and Albany, &c. The Publisher in all prostrate humility Devotes and Dedicates this his ENCHYRIDION."
- On the back of this edifying effusion occurs a statement that the present work was intended to supersede the King's Primer, and that it was published by special authority of the Crown.
- One of the headings is: "Loyal Prayers for every day of the week, beginning with the Letter and the Name of our Sovereign Lord King Charles." A portrait of that monarch faces the title. The publisher spared no pains to impress on it the stamp of orthodoxy and loyalty, and yet it does not seem to have passed into a second edition.
- An English Grammar; or, A Plain Exposition of Lily's Grammar. By R. R. 8vo., 1641.
- The Ground of Arts [Arithmetic]. By Robert Recorde. 8vo., London, 1543. Later editions, as well as an earlier one, the latter not at present known.
- The First Book for Children; Or, The Compleat School-Mistress. 16mo., London, (? 1700). With cuts.
- A Catechism or Short Kind of Instruction, whereby to teach Children and the Ignoranter Sort. By Thomas Sparke and John Seddon. 4to., 1583.

- A New Book of Spelling with Syllables, Devised chiefly for Children. 4to., 1610.  
Milk for Children. By Lambroke Thomas, Vicar of Pevensey. 12mo., 1654.  
A Dictionary in Latin and English. By John Veron. 4to., 1575, 1584.  
Early English Vocabularies. Edited by Thomas Wright, 1873-82. 2 vols. Royal 8°.  
A Little Book for Little Children. By Thomas White, Minister of the Gospel. 12mo., 1702.  
On the title to Part II. this is called the Twelfth Edition.  
A Short Dictionary for young beginners. By John Withals. 4to., London, 1553. Often reprinted with additions by others.  
A Light to Grammar and a Gate to Sciences, opened by a Natural Key. By Hezekiah Woodward. 12mo, 1641.

#### THE SCHOOL LITERATURE OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

The seventeenth century had been very fertile in schemes and experiments for the better training of youth and the establishment of schools on an improved basis. The ascendancy of Lily and others still remained comparatively unimpaired, so far as the dead languages went, and the Oxford, Eton, and Westminster Grammars were more or less reproductions of his system of teaching Latin—a system which he had himself received as a legacy from Whittinton and Stanbridge. During two centuries the classical knowledge of Englishmen was only to be acquired in compliance with rules laid down by the first headmaster of St. Paul's, who had, in fact, done little more than consolidate and unify the method pursued by his predecessors at Magdalen, Oxford. The influence of Lily was such as no principal of a public seminary had ever exerted before, or ever will again. His official position enabled him to stamp the educational principles which he had imbibed from his teachers and learned contemporaries, and from such scholars as Erasmus, Grocyn, Linacer, and Whittinton, on the age to which he immediately belonged so strongly, and his opinions were so completely in harmony with those of the Continent, whence, of course, they had been originally derived, that during many

succeeding generations there was neither the power nor the disposition to set up any new platform in that department of elementary instruction. I have registered certain attempts to introduce reforms in other branches of tuition, but Lily's *Latin Grammar* substantially preserved down to the middle of the last century its supremacy and prestige.

If there had been a revolt, it was rather an assertion of new claims than a crusade against old ones. During the reigns of the later Stuarts, and even so far back as the time of Charles I., writers had appeared to advocate the study of something more than the classics, to demonstrate the importance and propriety of a more accurate knowledge of English by English people.

By turning back for a moment to the bibliography of the period just behind us, we shall observe several little books which had for their object the admission of the vernacular into the scholastic *curriculum* on an equal footing with Latin and Greek. Naturally, these protests against the exclusive pretensions of the authors and tongues of antiquity were long ineffectual, and the books in which they were embodied sank one after the other into oblivion. But the feeling in favour of an enlarged and more national plan of education could not be stifled. As time went on the movement for making the young acquainted with the language of Chaucer and Shakespear, as well as those of Cicero and Demosthenes, gained converts and active supporters; and toward the close of the reign of William III., and on the eve of what has been called the Augustan age of Queen Anne, a very remarkable and praiseworthy effort was made hitherward by a provincial schoolmaster, of whose name and book even bibliographers were, I believe, till quite recently altogether ignorant.

I must commence by producing the title:

"The Country-Man's Conductor in reading and writing True English, containing such Rules as the Author, by near Forty Years' Practice in Teaching, hath found Necessary and Useful to that end. Printed chiefly for the use of the Author's own School, and may also be useful to all Teachers, Parents, Masters of Families, and

Single Persons, to improve themselves, their Children and Families, in good English, to which are added some examples of the English of our Honourable Ancestors, and also of our Western Dialect. . . . By John White, sometime Master of Mr. Chilcot's Free School in Tiverton, and now Master of a Boarding-School in Tiverton aforesaid. Exeter, 1701, 8vo."

Here we have beyond question an unusually sensible and acute writer, who in his preface has exposed with well-merited severity and with some amusing anecdotes the imperfect education which prevailed in his day, not, perhaps, so much from the want of books, as from the want of properly qualified preceptors. I must quote his own words, however :

"The Defects and Imperfections herein arise partly from Parents, and partly from Teachers. First, from Parents, who are either incapable or unwilling to be at the Charges to put their Children to such Schools, where it may be attained, or to allow them Time sufficient to acquire it. Secondly, from Teachers, who are not qualify'd for such Undertakings, and the Reward, usually allow'd such Undertakers, gives them small Encouragement to qualify themselves better."

There was something, no doubt, radically wrong in the system ; but it is to be presumed that, if teachers were ill-paid, it was because culture was generally neglected, not because parents were reluctant to incur a larger outlay. The taste for refinement and information probably comes, not from the pupils, but from the schoolmaster ; it is with him that lies the power of raising the standard and tone of the new generation ; and, of course, such men as White of Tiverton, who began his career, he tells us, in 1663, notably assisted the cause. He was excusably anxious that the rules which he had carried out in his own establishment should not die with him ; and, indeed, he apprises us that many masters of families, who had found the benefit of his improved principle of tuition, urged him to make his views public. "Two sorts of Enemies," he says, "such Undertakers must expect, as I myself have, and I find such Authors and their Books have had, and I know my Book will run the

same Fate. The one are such illiterate Teachers of English as cannot read such Books, who say, They are full of hard Words, and fit to puzzle Children with ; you may know them by their reading, who read *Barutch* for *Baruch*, *Lametch* for *Lamech*, etc. These backbite . . . such as teach out of the common *A. B. C.* road, because thereby their Ignorance is detected by little Boys ; but all they can do is but to pick Holes in our Coats. . . . Another sort of Enemies appear upon the stage with scraps of Latin. These are such imperfect Grammarians, who arrived about one eighth part of a Furlong from Nothing towards Something ; their Degree in Grammar amounts to what our Country calls *Ale-House Latin*. . . . All that know me know that I have a great Veneration for all sorts of Learning, and 'tis well known, that such as have taken Perfection in any Art or Science, are not so free to discourse of it in Company as the imperfect Bragadocia's. Take an Example or two of the English of those imperfect Grammarians. One wrote an Upholsterer to furnish him with a *Desen* of *Chares* and a *Coach* for his *Hale un* Chamber ; another wrote to a Mercer to send him a *Patron* of his *Nuist Faushin Kallaminkkas*. . . ."

The writer offers some judicious advice to pupils who have left school, counselling them not to neglect to improve themselves by study and practice, and to take heed what English slips from their pens, since their faults cannot justly be reflected altogether on their masters, if they do not meet them half-way, and try to develop the good fruits of schooling.

Children might practise on the English rules by any book except that of Wallis the Cobbler of Gloucester, says White, but that shall be laid aside. He alludes to the *Grammar* which I have included in my bibliographical enumeration. His other instructions refer to the proper and profitable use of his own book, which may be said to belong almost equally to the century in which it appeared, and to that in which the main part of its author's life was spent.

But the glimpses which we gain here and there of the state and tone of this class of letters long after White's day, down to the time of Goldsmith and Johnson—nay, down

to those of our very grandfathers and grandmothers—prove how feeble a stimulus was imparted to the public mind by the occasional endeavour of a man of more than ordinary intelligence to institute reforms or get a general hearing.

But, notwithstanding the praiseworthy exertions of men like White of Tiverton, the condition of affairs remained very immaterially advanced; and it may be affirmed, without much danger of contradiction, that our schools and school-teachers within living memory, with a few honourable exceptions, were totally unworthy of a great country and a high civilization.

In the opening years of the present century several writers, including the Taylors of Ongar and the Lambs, contributed something toward the production of better books for the young of both sexes; and from Godwin's *Juvenile Library*, of which an account is to be found in Kegan Paul's *Life of Godwin*, issued many little works, now scarcely remembered, of an educational and moral complexion for the benefit of a past generation.

One turns to specimens of this cycle of our nursery literature, when they occur, with a sort of undefined feeling akin to avidity, but not very far removed from contempt. On the whole, I think that I prefer the juvenile poems of the Taylors to those of Miss Lamb, both of which have been lately republished. But they are little more than Watts Revived; and the pictures in the illustrated volume called *Little Ann* are nonsensical and monotonous *ad nauseam*.

There is a curious nameless book called *The Child's New Play-Thing* at present before me. I subjoin the richly explanatory title:

"The Child's New Play-Thing: Being A Spelling-Book Intended to make the Learning to Read, a Diversion instead of a Task. Consisting of Scripture-Histories, Fables, Stories, Moral and Religious Precepts, Proverbs, Songs, Riddles, Dialogues, &c. The Whole adapted to the Capacities of Children, and divided into Lessons of one, two, three, and four Syllables, with entertaining Pictures to each Song and Fable; and a new-invented Alphabet for Children to play with, and a Preface shewing the Use of it.

The Second Edition. To which is added Three Dialogues: 1. Shewing how a little Boy shall make every body love him. 2. How a little Boy shall grow wiser than the rest of his School-fellows. 3. How a little Boy shall become a great Man. Designed for the Use of Schools, or for children before they go to School. London: Printed for M. Cooper at the Globe in Pater-noster-Row, 1743." 12mo. With a portrait of His Highness Prince George, to whom the work is dedicated.

To the copious particulars above furnished it need only be added that the Preface of the author, which shews the use of the two Alphabets, recommends that the child should at first be taught the letters by playing with them, and that for this purpose the folded Alphabet, which forms part of the volume, should be cut up and put into a hat or box, and the pieces drawn out severally, the pupil first being told, and by degrees being made to guess, what each is. In the specimen accompanying our copy, *A*, for instance, consists of the capital and small letter, with *Abraham* above and *Apple* below, the whole enclosed in a border, and so printed as to be complete in itself; and the whole alphabet is constructed on the same principle.

The proverbs are selected without much apparent regard to the age of the students whom they were intended to edify, and it must be confessed that the same may be said of the moral precepts in verse, of which there are two alphabets. The adages are often coarse and recondite—a random sheaf from Ray; and the precepts strike one as pitched too high for a very young child, as, for instance:

A little Learning is a dangerous thing;  
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian Spring.

The third of these dialogues, pointing out how a little boy is to become a great man, winds up with this distich:

Let this be your Plan,  
Learn all that you can,  
And you'll be a great Man.

The Stories are, St. George and the Dragon, Guy of Warwick, Fortunatus, and Reynard the Fox, each with a villainous woodcut; and the collection ends with some poems or copies of verses, which are headed *Songs*,



and of which one, *The Dumb Woman Cur'd*, is a metrical *rifacimento* of a jest in the *Hundred Merry Tales*, 1526, "Of the man that had the dumb wife," only that in this nursery book a doctor does duty for the devil.

The commencing portion of the *Child's New Play-Thing* is excellent, and promises something better than the medley or jumble of inappropriate and even exceptionable matter, which occupies the later pages. But as he proceeded the anonymous compiler seems to have lost sight of his object and mission, and to have forgotten for what stage of mental development he had undertaken to make himself the purveyor.

A singular monument of the provincial press about this time is "Little Master's Miscellany: Or, Divine and Moral Essays in Prose and Verse; Adapted to the Capacities, and design'd for the Improvement of Youth, of both Sexes. Containing Dialogues . . . A Ramble thro' the Town, in a Dialogue between Master Joseph, and Miss Patty. . . . The Third Edition, Illustrated with Copper-Plates. Birmingham: Printed by T. Warren, in the Bull-Ring; . . . 1750." Small 8vo., pp. 96.

The volume is introduced by King George the Second's Privilege, the above-cited title, a Preface, in which the writer claims, of course, for his book superior merit and a purer moral tone than were to be found in certain of its predecessors, and finally the Introduction, which consists of a prayer in three stanzas, put into the mouth of youth. The Dialogues begin on page 9, with one between Fanny and Joseph on Lying; the second is between Sally and her governess on Prayer; the third between a master and his scholar on Fishing; the fourth on Fowling, between Billy and his elder brother Charles, and so on. Each ends with a pious poem and a sort of moral maxim, also in verse. The Dialogues make way for a series of Select Fables, which are succeeded by Moral Songs, of which the first is *On the Death of a Canary Bird falling from the Perch of his Cage*. Take the third and fourth stanzas:

Corelli's Airs, tho' judg'd exceeding fine,  
Were ne'er like his, for his were All divine;  
He liv'd above the sordid use of Gold,  
His best Performances were never sold.

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*Gratis* he Sung, and therefore, *gratis* I  
Immers'd in Sorrow write his Elegy;  
He dy'd lamented in a good old Age,  
And left a silent solitary Cage.

The last section comprises "Useful Maxims and Moral Reflections," and a page at the very end is dedicated to the advertisement of three other works of a similar kind then just out or in the full blaze of popularity:

"1. Reading made completely Easy; consisting chiefly of Scripture Sentences. Recommended for the use of Schools. Price Six-pence.

2. The Trifle, or, Gilded Toy,  
To humour every Girl and Boy.

The Fourth Edition. Adorned with upwards of Eighty Cuts. Same price.

3. Tom Thumb's Play-Book, to Teach Children their Letters as soon as they can speak. Adorned with Cuts. Price One Penny."

Another of these selected types of the mental *pabulum* supplied to the young in the century preceding our own is: "An Introduction to Spelling and Reading. Containing Lessons for Children Historical and Practical: Adorn'd with Sculptures. London: Printed for R. Dod, Bookseller to the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge. . . . 1754. 8vo."

This was the seventh edition, and there was a tenth in 1775. The author was the Reverend Francis Fox, at one time a surmaster at St. Paul's, and eventually Rector of Reading, who informs us in his preface that "the method of learning to read here proposed having been tried with good success in a Charity-school in the country, it was thought proper to publish it, that each child might have a copy. It was further considered that what was of use in one school might be useful in others also." So far, so good. The little unpretending volume commences with the Alphabet, accompanied by a page of small woodcuts, intended to be elucidatory of the meaning of certain words, as *Angel*, *Ball*, *Unicorn*, *Ax* [*sic*]; but they are before Bewick. A series of Lessons graduating in difficulty follows, and develops from short sentences into Bible stories, enriched with pictures of the most hideous character. We next pass to a catechism digested into the same form,

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by way of question and answer; then come the *Relative Duties in the Words of Scripture*, which embrace, incongruously enough, those of Husbands and Wives; *Proverbs*, which appear to have been adapted to the special occasion by the author; *A Second Part*, comprehending polysyllables and more difficult words, and finally *Prayers*.

In order to prepare ourselves not to criticise too severely a lucubration such as that before us, we must remember that the author was a clergyman of the first half of the eighteenth century, and that he did little more than adopt the models which he found ready to his hand. The secularization of learning is thought even now to be carried too far, though it will be infallibly carried much farther; but in the earlier Georgian era there was through the whole of the educational course, for laymen and others alike, a strong Scriptural undercurrent. There is no deficiency of dull men at the present hour who would, and to their utmost power do, make English children construe the ancient annals of the Jews into a law-book for themselves; but the Church is beginning to feel more and more the influence of a force which will change all that, and cast behind it the old fetish, of which the Reverend Francis Fox died a beadsman and a dupe.

The *London Vocabulary*, by James Greenwood, who was also one of the masters of St. Paul's, appeared somewhere about the close of the reign of Queen Anne. He was also the author of the *English Grammar*, 1711, which had the honour of a complimentary notice in the *Tatler*, and of an Anthology called *The Virgin Muse*, 1717.

His most popular and successful work, however, was his *Anglo-Latin Vocabulary*, of which I have seen no edition prior to the third, published in 1715, while Greenwood was still keeper of a private boarding-school at Woodford, in Essex. It continued to be in demand at least as late as 1785, when it had reached its nineteenth issue. On the title-page of the sixteenth, 1771, the writer is described as "late Sur-Master of St. Paul's School." It was evidently a trade book, and had a long and profitable run.

Greenwood condemns the want of accuracy, clearness and simplicity in his

predecessors. "The burthening of the Memory with more than is necessary at the entrance upon any Study, is certainly a great Discouragement to the Learner." He cites Latin barbarisms introduced into former school-books, such as *Ingratitudo*, *Nicotiana*, *Levisticum*, *Hyspaniolus*; and he also finds fault with the wrong significations given to words: *Arbustum* for a shrub, *Carmen* for one single verse, *Camera* for a chamber, *Caminus* for a chimney. Nor does he approve of the application of Latin names to modern things, or circumlocution, or the use of two or three words to express one in English.

In short, Greenwood conceived himself capable of producing a better book than most of those which he found current; and such is the endless variety of literature of this sort, and such at the same time the diversity of opinion on the principle which should govern the authors, that it is hard to say whether he has or has not succeeded. He deemed existing methods erroneous, and gave us a new one of his own.

He distributes subjects under heads, with an illustrative woodcut to each, and under this head he forms classified groups of words. Let us take the twenty-first section:

#### "XXI. The School.

[Woodcut of a master seated before a desk on a raised dais, approached by steps, like an auctioneer's rostrum, with two forms of scholars below.]

##### In

A School 1	Schöla, æ, f.
are	
A Master	Mägister, tri, m.
A SCHOLAR 3	Discipulus, i, m.

##### Men declare their Thoughts by

Speech or Discourse	Sermo, önis, m.
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##### In Speech there are

A Letter	Litëra, æ, f.
A Syllable	Sylläba, æ, f.
A Word	Verbum, i, n.

##### Speech is

A Fable or Tale	Fabüla, æ, f.
An History	Historia, æ, f.
A Joke or Jest	Jöcus, i, m.
Fame or Talk	Fäma, æ, f."

And so the little book goes on, with an honest belief on the part of the compiler that he was doing his part toward the bettering of school-books and school-boys.

(To be continued.)



## Some Old Hampstead Trees and their Associations.

BY MRS. MAXWELL Y. MAXWELL.

**T** is interesting to remember that when this old century was in the pride of its youth there existed a "Hampstead Literary and Scientific Institute," which held its meetings in the Assembly Rooms of the Holly Bush Inn, formerly the studio of Romney, the portrait-painter.

One evening in June, 1836, the lecturer was John Constable, R.A., and the subject of which he treated was "Trees."

The great landscape genius had lived at that time ten years in Hampstead. His house was situated between the Wells Tavern and what was once known as "The Long Room"—a place of public entertainment, now converted into a private dwelling, and called Weatherall House. Constable always loved to look from his windows down Well Walk at the tall lime-trees, under which some fifteen years before John Keats used to sit, sometimes engaged in thinking out his *Endymion* and the *Eve of St. Agnes*, for they were both written in Well Walk, and at other times watching for Coleridge to walk over from Highgate and talk, as only Coleridge could talk.

But respecting Constable's attachment to Well Walk, there was actually no part of our neighbourhood which he did not hold dear. He tells us he came here that the beauties of Nature might be ever before him, adding, "I love every stile and stump and lane in the village; as long as I am able to hold a brush I shall never cease to paint them."

At his lecture that evening he produced a remarkable collection of studies in trees, some of which he discussed as if they were

human beings. Speaking of an ash-tree, he said: "She was an elegant creature, who stood at the entrance to the village, and was in full health and vigour at the time I made my portrait of her; but on returning to visit the beauty some little time afterwards, I found her in a state of painful depression—in fact, she was fast dying of a broken heart. Two huge iron nails had been driven into her side, and a board hung on her trunk. Her sensitive nature had been pierced to the quick, and no less had she been affected by the offence of the words it expressed, namely, that 'All vagrants and beggars will be dealt with according to Law.' The lovely creature never recovered the shock, and did not very long survive the disgrace. She soon became paralyzed, and afterwards died, to the deep regret of her admirer and friend."

The entrance to the village, where his friend stood, was just that point on the high-road where Haverstock Hill ends and the Hampstead Green, then a large village green, begins. Although the Barnet Road, now called Finchley Road, did then exist, it formed no approach to Hampstead village, seeing that no cross-roads had yet been cut; so that the high-road of Haverstock Hill was the only direct way from the metropolis, and men travelled hither through a pleasant rural part, passing old Chalcot Farm [Chalk Farm], the buildings of which clustered together on the top of a little hill.

The aspect of Hampstead from this side was much what Leigh Hunt described it when he lived in the Vale of Health:

A steeple issuing from a leafy rise  
With balmy trees in front, and sloping green,  
Dear Hampstead is thy southern face serene,  
Silently smiling to approaching eyes,  
A village revelling in varieties.  
Then northward, what a range with heath and pond,  
And clumps of darkening pines  
And prospects blue.

Constable, with his passion for landscape, not only loved this place himself, but taught others to love it also, and all fair things which God had made. Speaking of the Welsh painter, who was in so many respects Constable's own forerunner, he said: "Richard Wilson was one of those appointed to show to men the hidden beauties of Nature."

John Constable himself showed to the world the beauty of things *as they were* at a time when Georgian art was showing the conventionality of things as they were *not*, and never had been. At a time when theology and literature, the state of society, and all the mind and manners of men were caked over with a vulgar elaboration of falsehood, Constable saw the simplicity of Truth and of Nature as it came from the hands of the Creator. His greatness lay first in that purity of soul which enabled him to see it, and then in the frankness of expressing just what he saw.

After the first exhibition of his pictures in England, the inevitable outburst came from the critics, who, because they were upholding an artistic lie, were proportionately angry at the sight of truth. "What is to become of conventional landscape painting," they exclaimed furiously, "if such pictures as these are to be admired?" One thing that was said at the sight of Constable's painting of dew and rain was that it caused such a "feeling of dampness." If it is possible this could be meant as an objection, it was obviously the very highest praise he could receive.

When he was about thirty years of age he grew, in spite of some bitterness, to express confidence in himself, saying: "I feel a decided conviction that some day I shall paint good pictures, which shall be valuable to posterity, although I may not reap the benefit of them. . . ." And now we must with shame acknowledge that, just as it was the Germans who taught us to know Shakespeare, so it was the French who made us appreciate Constable. For while we were clinging with an amazing stupidity to our traditions at home, and painting our landscapes inside our studies instead of in the open air, it was left to the Parisians, more free and untrammelled in their art, to show the first real comprehension of Constable's genius. In 1824 nine of his pictures were hung in the Louvre, and there created an immense impression. They were destined to create also what was still better, and that was an entirely new school of landscape. His friend wrote from Paris, "The French have been forcibly struck, and next year's exhibitions threaten to teem with Constable

imitations." It was said that he had sown the seeds of a revolution in landscape art, and that it would soon be a case of the school of Nature versus the school of tradition and convention.

Louis XVIII. awarded to him a gold medal, and the French Government wanted to buy his large picture, the "Haywain," for the good of the nation; but we are glad to feel it is safe now in our own National Gallery, as are also his "Windmill," his "Cornfield," and his "Valley Farm," all of them presumably Hampstead scenes, while his pictures of the "Heath" are in South Kensington Museum.

In spite of the loud burst of applause from across the Channel, our Academy allowed him to remain five years longer before making him an R.A. But he said, in his pathetic, satirical way: "My art flatters nobody by imitation, it courts nobody by smoothness, it has no *fa-la-las* nor *fiddle-de-dees*—how, then, can I hope to be popular?"

At the close of March, 1837, Constable had one day been at work since the early morning on a picture he was finishing, and he went out in the evening on an errand of charity connected with the Artists' Benevolent Fund. He was proverbially ever ready with kind actions, and in these things he could be relied upon to the utmost, for the "nobility of his life and feeling were known to all his friends." He returned home late, only to die in the night, and a few days afterwards was laid to rest beside his wife, whom he had buried nine years before, in the Hampstead churchyard.

On the south side of the church, in the hollow of the little hill, he lies, sheltered by the trees he had familiarly known. Every spring their tiny buds expand until they shield the hot summer sun from the artist's grave, and every autumn they spread those leaves on the ground below, to fade away on the breast of him who loved them, and to mingle, when dead, with the earth who had been their common mother.

Though we have no further record of the trees which John Constable considered his friends, he could not have failed, in his frequent visits to the churchyard, to know



the great yew-tree which stands at the top of the little hill not far from the place where his wife had been lying nine years. For generation after generation has the solemn gaze of this tree rested upon men coming and going. It has watched them during its "thousand years of gloom," to the baptismal font and to the grave, and it looks dark with the secrets of men's lives and the mystery of their deaths. Its appearance and its position recall exactly that described in "In Memoriam":

Old yew which graspest at the stones  
That name the underlying dead,  
Whose fibres net the dreamless head,  
Whose roots are wrapped about the bones.

One of the "underlying dead" named beneath our Hampstead yew, and over whose long sleeping-place it spreads the restful shade of its branches, is "Joanna Baillie, aged ninety years," who lies beside her sister "Agnes, aged a hundred years." How often within sight of the solemn yew had these two maiden ladies, full of interest, of culture, and of quaint charm, descended the narrow leafy lane of Holly Place and gone in to join the church-worship, from which, we read, Joanna was never absent. Her character was both powerful and gentle, showing the combination of her noble mind with the modesty of her womanly nature, and the tenderness of a soul which had been called pure to its inmost recesses.

Though people are inclined in this day to pass her name by with a smile, and remember nothing of her large volume of works, except, perhaps, *The Chough and Crow*, which has been immortalized by Sir Henry Bishop's melody, she received in her own time the highest praise from every critical quarter. For many years she remained anonymous, and would not lend herself to the social applause which was everywhere ready to burst upon her. She was devoting herself day and night to the old blind mother in Bolton House, on Windmill Hill. If she paid a call upon her literary friend Mrs. Barbauld, who was usually surrounded by interesting people at her house in Church Row, Joanna, in the strength of her Scotch reserve, would remain perfectly silent while the company praised her works with ardour, curious concerning their author-

ship, ascribing them first to one well-known writer, then to another, though invariably ascribing them to a man. . . . But Bolton House, which stands to-day exactly as Miss Baillie left it, was destined after her mother's death to receive its distinguished guests; for her name had at length become known, and everyone of importance who had had his word to say about her was eager to see the poetess.

William Howitt spoke of her as the "powerful dramatic writer, the graceful and witty lyricist, the sweet and gentle woman." Lord Byron said: "Joanna Baillie is the only woman who can write a tragedy." The Liberal leader found time in his political life to make five pages of criticism on her plays, for Fox was rapturous in his admiration of her talent. Dr. Johnson, one may be sure, did not come to Hampstead to see the green fields, for "having seen one he had seen all," and still preferred his walk down Fleet Street—that dear Fleet Street of his which was "more beautiful than Greenwich Park on a fine summer evening." But he came by the stage-coach to converse with her at whose quiet wise head he never aimed his great blunderbuss.

We read that Wordsworth was attracted by the works of the "ablest authoress of the day," and soon came to regard her as his ideal friend. "If I had to present to a foreigner anyone as a model of an English gentlewoman," he writes, "it would be Joanna Baillie." He used to walk to Bolton House across the fields from London—"those fields beyond Oxford Street" he calls them. It appears to be quite in character that the poet of Nature should make his journey through the country on foot, and that the pedant should go by coach. One feels the great Doctor would be reading all the way, while Wordsworth would not lose an inch of the rural road, but trod the green grass with tender steps; doubtless he too might be reading, but it would be the eternal book of Creation, composed by the Author and Maker of all.

We have one more admirer of Joanna Baillie to recall, and he the most emphatic of them all. The mighty minstrel of her native land, being asked if he considered Burns or Campbell Scotland's finer poet,

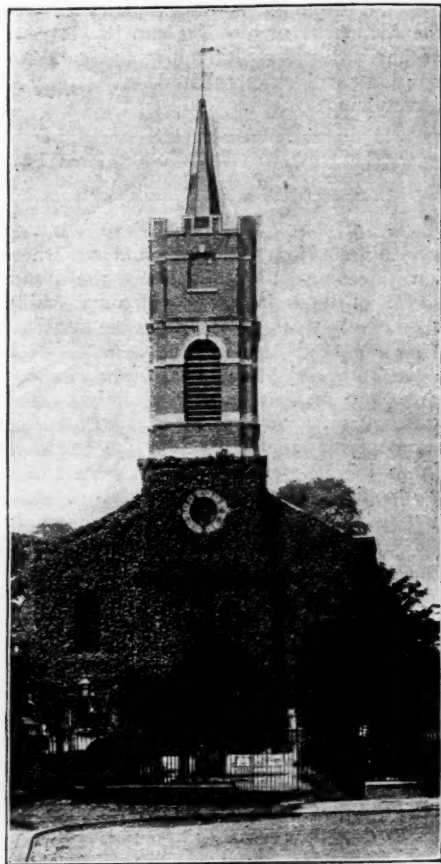
replied: "If you wish to speak of a real poet, Joanna Baillie is now the greatest genius of our country." Thus Sir Walter Scott, who had known her only by her works, sought an introduction to her, and it was made by another poet, their common friend, Southey. "That day at Hampstead in 1806," said Miss Baillie, "was one of the most remarkable in my life." And we see that the happy affinity between Sir Walter Scott and herself which sprang into being at that time—when she must have been forty-four years of age—developed a continuous exchange of high thought and friendly affection, which ended only when she was laid beneath the yew-tree in the parish churchyard.

When I last saw that dark yew it seemed to be shedding its stillness far around. Not a breeze stirred its branches, and all the trees remained so motionless that they might have been sharing in the sleep of the departed whose memorial stones they overshadowed. The only movement discernible amid the steady mid-day sunshine was the fitful fitting of the sparrows in and out of the thick ivy which covers the south wall of the church. The assiduous energy of these little creatures in search of food spoke not of death but of life, and contrasted strangely with the sacred repose of the surroundings among which they had found them an house where they might lay their young. Truly they were happy birds that flew round the altars of the Most High, but happier still those who were laid beneath the grass, and whose souls were at rest in the bosom of the Heavenly Father.

At the entrance to the churchyard stands a characteristic little old cedar-tree, which bears all the marks of ancient respectability. Almost like the official of a bygone day, he keeps his post at the iron gateway, silent, and consciously superior, in unspoken contempt of the Virginia creeper blushing red on the north wall of the church—a flimsy modern innovation.

Standing there in full view of all that goes on, he would tell you, if he only could speak, of all the changes which have taken place in his time. Unlike the old yew, his interest was always in living men rather than in the departed. More than 150 years ago he had

stood firmly rooted to the ground, while the old church—the previous building—was growing rotten and unsafe in the walls; moreover, it was becoming too small for the congregations in summer time, because the visitors had been coming in larger numbers



HAMPSTEAD PARISH CHURCH.

every year to the wells. The old church, which was then to be pulled down, had begun life as a chapelry under the administration of the ancient Rectory of Hendon; but later, in 1560, had been created a real parish church, acquiring its own right of baptisms, marriages, and burials. In 1745

it was doomed to fall, and a new structure was quickly commenced, which at the end of two years was completed and fit to accommodate all the persons of quality and of fashion, and the rich citizens from Cheapside and elsewhere who came to stay near the Pump-Room, to drink of the mineral springs, and to gain both health and enjoyment from the air of the heath, 400 feet higher than the sea.

These visitors would be staying at the Great Wells Tavern and at the Upper Flask Inn, which in fiction was associated with the unhappy Clarissa Harlowe, and in real life was the scene every summer of the lively meetings of the Kit-cat Club, the members of which used to sip their ale in brilliant converse under the old mulberry-tree, propped up as it was, and remaining till late days.

On weekdays the visitors to the wells met in the Long Room, where concerts and dancing and gambling took place.

On Sunday mornings the ladies, in powdered hair and patches, in "farthingales and hoops of wondrous size," were making eyes behind their large fans and laughing aloud in the church, without seeming to know they did wrong. The gentlemen, in periwigs and silk stockings, with diamond shoe-buckles and very tall sticks, talked loudly while waiting for the service to begin about the horse-racing which took place behind Jack Straw's Castle, long before Epsom and Ascot were heard of.

Another thing which took place on that racecourse was the outdoor preaching of Whitefield in 1739.

A much larger cedar than that which stands at the church gate once stood in the garden of Vane House, the north wing only of which is left now, and but very little of the once extensive grounds, which have been cut up for building. The cedar was sacrificed for the same purpose.

In this mansion it was supposed that Sir Henry Vane lived, in the seventeenth century, and was visited by Pym, Hampden, Fairfax, Cromwell, and Milton. It was from this beautiful home that the "gentle Sir Harry"—as Colonel Hutchinson's wife called him—was carried off by suggestion of Charles II., to eventually lay his head on the executioner's block at Tower Hill, 1662.

In the early half of the succeeding century Vane House came into the possession of Bishop Butler, and it was with him that the cedar was so closely associated; for beneath its branches he wrote much of his wonderful work, *The Analogy of Religion to the Constitution and Course of Nature*. After the publication of this book, which was received as by far the greatest theological work of the age, he was made Chaplain to Queen Caroline, who liked to gather around her men of metaphysical minds, with whom she so greatly delighted to converse. On her death-bed the Queen recommended him to the favour of her husband, George II., who made him Bishop of Bristol, then the poorest see in the kingdom. Butler accepted it with few words, though with perfect dignity, for he was not the man to resent an injustice; but later the King presented him with the Deanery of St. Paul's, and afterwards with the desirable Bishopric of Durham. Dr. Butler, though so simple in his personal and domestic expenditure (he would never dine on more than two courses, even if the Archbishop sat at his table), lavished large sums upon the restoration of the churches and the episcopal palaces, which were in a bad state of repair. Consequently the country-house at Hampstead had to be sold to pay some of his debts at the time of his death. The window of his study there, being of stained glass, and representing a Scripture subject, has remained until now, for it was in that wing of the building which has been preserved intact.

Bishop Butler never married. He is described as being "of a most reverend aspect, thin and pale, with a divine placidity which inspired veneration and expressed a most benevolent mind; his white hair hung gracefully on his shoulders, and his whole figure was patriarchal. He was an earnest and deep-thinking Christian, and often of a melancholy countenance, for he was grieved by what seemed to him the hopeless irreligion of the age."

He died at Bath, where he had gone on account of ill-health, in June, 1752.

It is not possible to enumerate the historic trees of Hampstead without remembering the elms which stand close to Erskine

House, at the back of the old Spaniard's Inn, for they remain standing as the result of the special intercession of Cowper.

Lord Chancellor Erskine had a passion for gardening, and employed the well-earned leisure from his arduous legal and political life in planting and digging. One of his favourite jokes on being found by a friend while at work with his spade in his kitchen garden was: "Here I am, enjoying my *otium cum dignitate*," or, as he said, "diggin' a taity." But in addition to digging potatoes, he also delighted to chop and fell trees, and once marked nine ancient elms as the victims of his hatchet, not from gratuitous cruelty, but because they obstructed a view which might be had on clear days of Windsor Castle in the far West, filmy and blue as a dream.

Many interesting visitors, of whom Edmund Burke was perhaps the most frequent, found their way to Evergreen Hall, as the house was at that time named, owing to Lord Erskine's arbaceous display. The political dinners which he gave were renowned for their gaiety, in consequence of the host's lively spirits, keen wit, and excellent tales, many of which have been preserved, but I must forbear their relation. Sir Samuel Romilly said: "I dined there one day at what might be called a great Opposition dinner; nothing could be more innocent than the conversation; the topics were light and trifling, politics being hardly mentioned." The Duke of Norfolk was of the party, Lord Grenville, and Lord Holland, besides many more nobles and gentlemen.

The visitor, however, whose protest so happily affected the destiny of the elms was not a politician, but a poet, and to his mind the intention of the Lord Chancellor seemed barbarous. Standing under the doomed branches, doubtless the melancholy poet could hear the wind sighing sadly among the leaves as they whispered their eternal farewell. Pleading for the elms, Cowper declared that the Muses would be indignant at so serious an offence against Nature, and represents them taking the fate of the trees into their own hands:

"Erskine," they cried, "at our command  
Disarms his sacrilegious hand;  
While yonder castle towers sublime  
These elms shall brave the threats of Time."

The lawyer yielded to the persuasions of the poet, and the lives of the trees were restored to them when at the eleventh hour they seemed to be lost. And now, though Lord Erskine has been buried seventy years in the parish churchyard, and Cowper has passed behind the "frowning providence," of which he wrote, to the world where God reveals His "smiling face," the trees still stand as before and bow to the passing breeze.

When Coleridge visited Kenwood Place he wrote to a friend describing its "delicious groves and valleys, the finest in England"; he also mentions the "cathedral aisle of giant lime-trees" as being a "favourite composition walk of Pope, who was an intimate friend of Lord Mansfield, and frequently stayed at his house." It is difficult, however, to reconcile this statement with the recollection that Pope died at Twickenham in the year 1744, and that Mansfield did not come to live here until eleven years later; for it was in 1755 that the first Lord Mansfield bought Kenwood Place from the Earl of Bute. The groves and valleys which Coleridge admired must have afforded a fine playground to the Countess of Bute's family, for she had thirteen children born while she lived there.

A former mistress of this place, just a hundred years before Lady Bute, had been a Mrs. Bull, who, it is interesting to know, was a daughter of Sir Harry Vane. She was married, and resided here near the Heath when her father was in Vane House, and when he left it, after the Restoration, to be imprisoned in the Tower.

Kenwood Place in 1780 met with a happy deliverance from the onslaughts of the Gordon Rioters. The incendiaries, having burnt down Lord Mansfield's house in Bloomsbury Square, from which his lordship and Lady Mansfield just managed to escape, directed their attention to his country house near the Heath, and were only frustrated in their designs by the clever ruse of a faithful servant. Giles Thomas, who was landlord of the Spaniard's Tavern, intercepted the ruffians on their arrival close to Kenwood with an invitation to refresh themselves gratis at his bar before commencing their work on the Lord Chancellor's mansion. While they were availing themselves of the innkeeper's hospitality, with exactly that result which he



desired, the old servant procured from London a detachment of Horse Guards, and to this formidable resistance the inebriated creatures quickly succumbed.

Giles Thomas received warm gratitude from his old master, though whether his method was equally approved by the temperance society of his day we have never been able to learn.

The mansion which had been thus preserved was to be honoured, half a century later, by the most distinguished of guests. In 1835 King William IV., many members of the royal family, and the Duke of Wellington visited here in state. The village of Hampstead was *en fête* on this occasion, a triumphal arch being erected over the Spaniard's Road, and near to it a grand stand, where the King received an address on his way to the banquet at Kenwood Place.

To prove that birds of the legal feather flocked together, a future Lord Chancellor was to be found in a country mansion on the other side of the village. Alexander Wedderburn having left Edinburgh for London, 1757, a pushing, unscrupulous man, whose sole aim in life was ambition, soon became distinguished in the Court of Chancery, entered Parliament 1762, was appointed in succession Solicitor and Attorney - General. He became Chief Justice of Common Pleas, and finally in 1795 was presented with the Great Seal, being raised to the peerage under the title of Lord Loughborough, afterwards Earl of Rosslyn.

His first place of residence in Hampstead was Branch Hill Lodge, and his later one the mansion which so long bore his name. Rosslyn House stood at that time in the original wealth of its extensive grounds, a large part of which was afterwards cut up and built upon; indeed, within the last decade further encroachments have been made, for Wedderburn Road has replaced more of the park, and been thus named in memory of its celebrated but ill-esteemed owner.

Having gained the object of his ambition, Lord Loughborough employed his official income by living in the most exaggerated

pomp. He kept an immense retinue of servants, and made himself ridiculous by never moving outside his gates except in a kind of procession of gilded coaches.

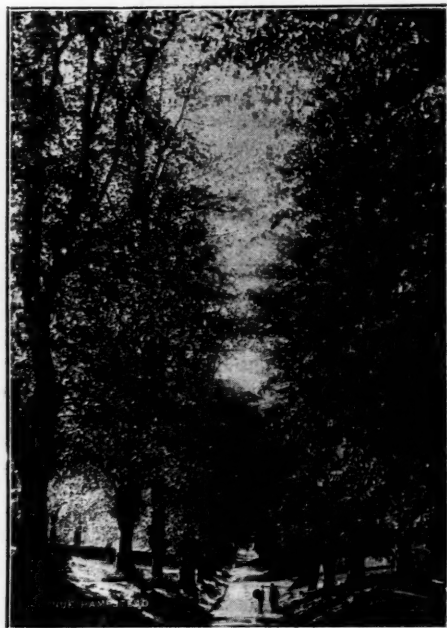
But he possessed more effective means than these for winning the scorn and hatred of men. He showed himself absolutely unscrupulous and cruel in passing sentence of death for the most trivial offence, or to gain his personal ends. The name of the hangman in his time was Burreaugh, and as Lord Loughborough appeared to so thoroughly enjoy putting on the black cap, his contemporaries pronounced his title "Love-Borough." His politics were as unprincipled as his law. He would change from one party to another quite unhesitatingly to compass his private designs. He was never known to consider the feelings of other people, and at the time of the American War his furious attacks upon the colonists caused Benjamin Franklin to swear that he "would never forgive the insults which that man had heaped upon his countrymen."

After the Great Seal had passed from his hands, his only object was to ingratiate himself by personal attentions at the Court of the King, but so little did he succeed, that when George III. was told that Lord Rosslyn was dead, that monarch replied: "Then he has not left a greater knave behind him in my dominions."

Rosslyn House has during the last two or three years been entirely pulled down. With the disappearance of the house is vanishing also the avenue which led from the lodge to the front-door. Some of these trees were planted in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and amongst them is to be found a hollow trunk which formed the home of some notable owls. Doubtless the old birds have had something to say on the subject, screeching their loss to the moon, who, however, has witnessed so much devastation in Hampstead that she has now grown quite cold, and makes but a poor response to their plaint. Nor would it comfort the creatures if she were to explain that, peeping through the window of a human dwelling that night, she had beheld their old trunk cut into logs, flaming on coals, to warm the mean thieves who had robbed them.

Truly Hampstead is a neighbourhood of most interesting ghosts! Some of the old trees still remain, and they serve as landmarks to declare where the departed have dwelt.

The name of "Judges' Walk" proclaims how the law-courts were forsaken during the Great Plague, and the Assizes were held under the elms on that lovely ridge overlooking the Heath. At one end of the avenue stands the low snug house which



THE JUDGES' WALK, HAMPSTEAD.

sheltered the famous tragedian Mrs. Siddons in her last quiet years, after the loud applause of the public had ceased and the curtain of her life was preparing to fall.

Mrs. Siddons was beloved in Hampstead for her warm-hearted benevolence, and owing to the perpetual youthfulness which genius preserves, she was known also for her sallies of fun. In a draper's shop one day in the village, when buying some household material, she terrified the poor assistant by striking an attitude, fixing her powerful eye

upon him, and in tones which had once made great audiences tremble and turn pale she inquired, "Will it wash?"

Her marvellous voice is said to have caused even her fellow actors to quail before her, and in a sonnet which Coleridge addressed to her he spoke of

*The shivering joys thy tones impart.*

Lastly, returning again to the neighbourhood of the church, we find three or four lime-trees propped up and still remaining out of the original number which once stood in the middle of Church Row. They have been looking in at the window of those tall quaint houses ever since they were first inhabited in the reign of Queen Anne.

What lively sights they witnessed below in the days when Church Row was the fashionable rendezvous and evening parade of the visitors from London!

There would go Dr. Arbuthnot, the witty physician to Queen Anne, with his friends Pope, Gay, and Swift ready to enjoy the jests which came sparkling up in his talk, like bubbles in a glass of champagne. Pope said of him, "He was a man of humour, whose mind seemed to be always pregnant with comic ideas." Swift said, "Oh that the world had but a dozen Arbuthnots, then would I burn my travels."

There, too, went the Master of the Temple, with Mrs. Sherlock taking his arm. People never forgot how, when he had refused, it was by his wife only that he could be persuaded to take the oath of allegiance to the new monarchs William and Mary, and they still pointed him out, saying, "There goes Dean Sherlock with his reason for taking the oaths on his arm." . . . This good Dean was much attached to Hampstead; he died in Church Row in 1707, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Church Row, though doomed to quickly disappear, stands to-day as a record of nearly two hundred years, and serves as a picture of the past. The innate conservatism of this venerable, respectable street seemed to decree by a natural law that the Sedan-chairs should linger here later than in any other part of London, and the link-extinguishers outside the front-doors have only comparatively lately been removed. One feels that, though the



CHURCH ROW, HAMPSTEAD.

watchman with his night-cry, his lantern, and his watch-box have all ceased to be, they have left the emphasis of their absence behind.

The years pass with the constant repetition of their changes :

The seasons bring the flower again,  
And bring the firstling to the flock.

All the time the clock on the old church "beats out the little lives of men."

Everything in its turn appears and is gone. Men and women, the houses they lived in, the fields they walked in, and the trees which they loved, fall down before the scythe of Time.

Of our picturesque old Hampstead, which is doubly dear to us now it is fast fading away, little remains but the great Heath,

which we have secured beyond all question of desecration, and have here, at least, succeeded in paralyzing the vandalistic hand of the builder. The Heath stands like the ancient mount which might not be touched, and is preserved sacred to the joys of the poor on high-days, to the strength of the health-seekers and play of the children on quiet ones.

With its vista of low-lying roofs, domes and steeples on one side, and its wide panorama of outlying country bounded by hills on the other, this lovely table-land ever serves for the uplifting of man's soul to the Highest. As it proved to Coleridge and Keats, to Cowper, to Byron and Leigh Hunt the cradle of thought and inspiration, so it is still, and must ever remain, the home of many men's hearts and the altar of all reverent souls.



## Some Old London Museums and Collections.

By G. L. APPERSON.

### JAMES COX'S MUSEUM.

**I**N the second act of Sheridan's *Rivals* Sir Anthony Absolute, enraged at his son's disinclination to promise immediate and unconditional compliance with his wishes, exclaims: "Zounds! sirrah! the lady shall be as ugly as I choose: she shall have a hump on each shoulder; she shall be as crooked as the crescent; her one eye shall roll like the bull's in Cox's Museum; she shall have a skin like a mummy, and the beard of a Jew—she shall be all this, sirrah! Yet I will make you ogle her all day, and sit up all night to write sonnets on her beauty." The allusion to the bull in Cox's Museum has probably puzzled more than one reader, though at the time of the play's first performance, in 1775, it was perfectly intelligible to every Londoner.

For a short period—1773 to 1775—James Cox's Museum was one of the most noteworthy shows to be seen in London. Cox himself was a most ingenious mechanic, a silversmith and watchmaker, whose place of business was at 103, Shoe Lane, Fleet Street. When the victories of Clive in India, and the success of the same great soldier-statesman in purifying and settling the government of the East India Company's dominions, made it likely that many parts of the interior of India would be made accessible to British commercial enterprise, Cox determined to take advantage of the new openings for trade, and constructed a number of elaborate toys and ornamental contrivances of the most cunning and intricate mechanism, and of the richest materials, which he hoped to sell at a handsome profit to the Indian princes and rajahs. The ravages of Hyder Ali in the Carnatic, a terrible famine in Bengal, and other disturbing events—wars and rumours of wars—prevented this plan from being carried out, and Cox found his ingenious pieces of mechanism left on his hands, practically unsaleable, for Europe afforded no market

for costly baubles of this kind. Some of Cox's productions, however, must have reached the Far East, for on the occasion of the plundering of the Summer Palace at Peking in 1860 several articles of jewellery and curious mechanical contrivances were found bearing the name and address: "James Cox, Jeweller, 103, Shoe Lane, London." But these were probably of less value and of less interest than the wonderful articles which he had prepared for India.

In order to recoup himself for the enormous outlay which he had incurred, the ingenious silversmith opened an exhibition in Spring Gardens, which was at once known as Cox's Museum. Mr. F. G. Stephens has lately pointed out, incidentally, in a paper on Spring Gardens,\* the exact site of the room where the show was held. "The Great Room in Spring Gardens, otherwise called 'Wigley's Auction Rooms,'" says Mr. Stephens—in which from 1761 to 1772 the Society of Artists of Great Britain held their annual exhibitions of pictures—"stood at the south-west corner of Spring Gardens, and on one's right hand on passing from that street (which was never a thoroughfare for vehicles) into the Park, to enter which you had to go between two tall iron bars, with a kind of frieze over your head connecting the iron bars, of which there were three in all." Close to this barred opening, on the right, was a shop extending "the width of the pavement, which was wider there than elsewhere, from the front of the auction rooms proper." The entrance to the rooms was approached by three steps. "A blank wall of brick without any windows faced the street, and when you stood on the south side thereof a sort of lantern of glass, raised upon the roof, visible above the parapet, suggested to observers of intelligence that it lighted a large and lofty room on the first floor of the building, to which, if the street-door happened to be open, it was not hard to guess a then visible staircase gave access from the hall. Just below the stone coping of the parapet of the cheerless façade of brick, and immediately above the door, was a large board, on which in full Roman capitals . . . one might read, WIGLEY'S ROOMS." In the great room surmounted by the glass

\* *Notes and Queries*, 8th Series, vol. ix., pp. 49-51.



lantern, standing on the site now occupied by the offices of the London County Council, were exhibited the contrivances of Mr. James Cox.

The circumstances under which these beautiful and costly toys were shown were somewhat curious and unusual. In 1773 Cox obtained an Act of Parliament—it received the royal assent on June 21—which enabled him to dispose of his collection by way of a lottery. The preamble to the Act sets forth the circumstances of the sale, and remarks that “the painter, the goldsmith, the jeweller, the lapidary, the sculptor, the watchmaker—in short, all the liberal arts have found employment in and worthily co-operated” in producing these mechanical curiosities. The grammar of the preamble is not above suspicion—a painter is hardly an art—but its statements are not exaggerated; for Nollekens the sculptor and Zoffany the painter were both employed by Cox in making designs for his contrivances.

The whole collection was valued at £197,500, and the lottery consisted of 120,000 tickets at one guinea each. The chief prizes were: two of £5,000 each, two of £3,000, twelve of £1,500, eighteen of £750, fifty-two of £450, and one hundred of £300. The two first drawn tickets carried prizes of £100 each, and the two last drawn were worth £750 each. The drawing began in the Guildhall on May 1, 1775, and soon afterwards the collection was dispersed.

The articles drawn for and exhibited in the Museum were fifty-six in number. Full details of each piece may be found in the “Descriptive Inventory of the several exquisite and magnificent Pieces of Mechanism and Jewellery, comprised in the Schedule annexed to an Act of Parliament, made in the Thirteenth Year of His present Majesty, George the Third; for enabling Mr. James Cox, of the City of London, Jeweller, to dispose of his Museum by way of Lottery. Growing Arts adorn Empire.” Several copies of this “Inventory” are in the library of the British Museum. It was sold for sixpence, or was given gratis to those who bought lottery tickets, with models of the pair of ear-rings which was figured in the frontispiece. This pair of diamond ear-rings, said to have been intended for the Empress of Russia, was

valued at £10,000. In the “Inventory” they are placed with the third article shown—a bust of the Empress, modelled by Nollekens.

The “Inventory,” after a recital of the preamble to the Act, has a long preface by Mr. Cox, followed by a detailed scheme of the lottery, and a description of the fifty-six objects exhibited and to be drawn for. The descriptions are very elaborate, and it would be impossible to reproduce them here. The first two entries represent a horse and tent—the latter probably a howdah—made of gold and jewellery, with two vases of flowers. The tent was lined with mirrors, and the whole was supported on a gilt table, with rhinoceroses, containing musical bells, flower-pots and bouquets in pearls and precious stones, a mechanical clock, and other adornments. Among the articles are several musical chimes with mechanical movements; richly caparisoned bulls; goats with housings of pearls; gilded and jewelled vases supported by silver turtles; rhinoceroses standing on rocks of gold stone, supporting onyx and gold cabinets; elephants and silver temples; cages of mechanical singing-birds; and other things of the kind, all ablaze with silver and gold and precious stones.

No. 39 is a palm-tree made of copper, covered first with silver, “then with a transparent verdure like the finest enamel, through which the very veins and fibres of the leaves may be seen,” and decorated with dates, insects, and flowers of jewel-work. The next in the list is a temple of agate, with triumphal chariots moving on a rich gallery, supported by palm-trees. No. 46 is called “The Chronoscope,” and is described at great length. The writer of the “Inventory” adds: “In the year 1769 the fellow to this stupendous piece was sent on board the *Triton* Indiaman to Canton, and now adorns the palace of the Emperor of China.” In this Chronoscope a great weight of gold and near 100,000 stones, including diamonds, rubies, emeralds and pearls, are stated to have been used. No. 50 is a throne, 32 feet in circumference, with six steps in circular form, the whole “gilt like solid gold.” Beneath and behind the throne a band of mechanical music—kettledrums, trumpets,

etc.—performed “God save the King!” Magnificent vases of jewelled flowers, musical clocks, a pyramid of fountains, 15 feet high, more bulls and goats, a silver swan as large as life, and the like, complete the list.

The silver swan as large as life, which could move its neck very gracefully in every direction, has had a curious history. When Cox’s collection was dispersed, it passed with some other articles into the possession of a man named Weekes, who for some years kept a show, called “Weekes’ Mechanical Museum,” in either Tichborne or Coventry Street, Leicester Square. The son of this exhibitor, Charles Weekes, died so recently as 1864, and at the sale of his effects, on May 26 in that year, the remains of a number of automaton figures and fragments of various pieces of mechanism—broken, rust-corroded, and very dirty—were knocked down for small sums. The silver swan does not appear to have been included in this sale, but is said to have been lying for many years in the cellars of the Bank of England, until at last it was acquired by a gentleman, who sent it to the Paris Exhibition of 1867. When that exhibition closed it is further said to have been bought for the amusement of the late Prince Imperial, then a young child. It would be difficult to verify these statements, and the only thing now certain is that the silver swan can be seen at the present day in the middle of the picture gallery at the Bowes Museum, which stands on the outskirts of the town of Barnard Castle, in Yorkshire.

In thus finding a permanent home, the swan has been more fortunate than the rest of its early companions in Spring Gardens, few or none of which can now be traced. Some, as was stated above, passed into the possession of another exhibitor named Weekes, and their remains were probably among the rubbish cleared out at the sale in 1864. At least one article became the property of a showman named William Bullock, who travelled the country with a museum of curiosities. In “A Companion to Bullock’s Museum, containing a Description of upwards of Three Hundred Curiosities,” which was printed at Sheffield, 1799, there is this entry: “A superb Piece of

Mechanism, originally a part of Cox’s Museum, composed of gold and jewelry, and containing a variety of curious movements and figures. In the bottom is a Cascade of Artificial Water with constant motion. This piece was sold by Mr. Cox for £500.” Particulars as to the fate of the other things shown in Spring Gardens are lacking.

During the two years in which Cox’s Museum was open to the public only a few persons were admitted at a time, at a charge of 10s. 6d. per head. There was some grumbling at the charge. Hugh Kelly, the playwright, wrote a poem of twenty-three stanzas, entitled, “On hearing some Objections to the high Price of Admission to see Mr. Cox’s Museum,” in which he reproved people for being willing to lavish money on masquerades, opera-singers, and so on, while

When Glconda’s whole mines in one wonderful blaze

At a British enchanter’s command,  
Start warm into life, as enraptured we gaze,  
And are birds, beasts, or men in his hand;  
We then shake our heads—“Half-a-guinea’s too high,”

And against it we gravely determine;  
Yet the very next minute our half-guineas fly  
For one tweedle-dum-dee from the Sirmen.

Notwithstanding the high charge, the show was a distinct success. There are many allusions to it in the literature of the time, in addition to those already mentioned. In the *New Foundling Hospital for Wit* (Vol. ii., p. 42, ed. 1784) there is “An Epistle to Dr. Shebbeare,” by Malcolm Macgregor, a pseudonym for William Mason, the friend of Gray, in which are these lines:

So when great Cox, at his mechanic call,  
Bids orient pearls from golden dragons fall,  
Each little dragonet, with brazen grin,  
Gapes for the precious prize, and gulps it in.  
Yet when we peep behind the magic scene,  
One master-wheel directs the whole machine;  
The self-same pearls, in nice gradation, all,  
Around one common centre, rise and fall.

Horace Walpole, in a letter to Mason dated August 4, 1777, calls these verses “the immortal lines on Cox’s Museum.”


In 1774 a curious pamphlet was published, entitled *The Divine Predictions of Daniell and St. John demonstrated in a Symbolical Theological Dissertation on Cox’s Museum*.

It had notes and other apparatus, and was dedicated to the Bishop of Gloucester. The authorship was anonymous. Passages from the book of Daniel and the Revelation, and descriptions of items in the museum were printed in parallel columns. The intention appears to have been satirical, but the satire is obscure and of no interest whatever. The pamphlet, however, testifies to the widespread interest excited by Cox's show. In 1772 it was visited by the Rev. John Newton, the friend of Cowper, and a man by no means given to the seeing of sights. In the seventh of the "Letters to a Nobleman," in his *Cardiphonia*, he says: "When I was lately at Mr. Cox's museum, while I was fixing my attention upon some curious movements, imagining that I saw the whole of the artist's design, the person who showed it touched a little spring, and suddenly a thousand new and unexpected motions took place, and the whole piece seemed animated from the top to the bottom." The good man then proceeds, *more suo*, to moralize on what he had seen. He again alludes to this visit in the first of "Five Letters to Miss D—" in the same work.

Miss Fanny Burney, in *Evelina*, which was published in 1778, makes her heroine, with Sir Clement Willoughby and Madame Duval, pay a visit to Spring Gardens. As they examine the wonderful pieces of mechanism, a discussion arises as to their utility, and the man in charge is interrogated on the point. "Why, sir, as to that, sir," replies the somewhat puzzled attendant, "the ingenuity of the mechanism—the beauty of the workmanship—the—undoubtedly, sir, any person of taste may easily discern the utility of such extraordinary performances." "Why, then, sir," says Sir Clement Willoughby, "your person of taste must be either a coxcomb or a Frenchman, though, for the matter of that, 'tis the same thing." Then a mechanical pineapple opened, a nest of mechanical birds began to sing, and the argument dropped.

The principal mechanic at Cox's Museum, whom Miss Burney may perhaps have intended to indicate as the man in charge in this dialogue, was Joseph Merlin, who opened later a museum of his own, to which I hope to refer in another paper.

## The Exploration of Caerwent.

HE excavation of Caerwent has long been under consideration by antiquaries in the West of England, and we are now glad to print a circular just issued by some of the members of the Clifton Antiquarian Club, who have resolved upon this important work in conjunction with several energetic members of the Monmouthshire and Caerleon Antiquarian Association. The work will be of the most interesting character, and we feel sure that the necessary funds will be quickly supplied.

The estimated cost of the work is over £500, towards which about £125 has already been subscribed locally. Donations may be sent to the honorary treasurer or any member of the committee.

### "CAERWENT EXPLORATION FUND."

"The excavations which have been and are still being carried out by the Society of Antiquaries at Silchester, the site of the Calleva Atrebatum of the Romans, have drawn public attention to the importance of systematically exploring and describing these very interesting records of the former history of our own land.

"At Silchester the aim has been not so much to discover beautiful pavements, or works of art, as to recover the plan and arrangement of a Romano-British City, and to throw light on the daily life and culture of its inhabitants.

"As is well known, the efforts of the Society of Antiquaries at Silchester have met with marked success. A very large portion of the ancient city has been examined, and the streets and houses have been accurately planned. Many very interesting remains of the domestic life of the inhabitants have been found, and the discovery of a Christian church close to the Forum may almost be said to mark an epoch in this branch of historical research.

"That the work so ably begun at Silchester should be carried on with equal energy and care in other parts of the country is, it need not be said, a matter of first-rate importance, and steps have already been taken to excavate

and explore the Roman City at Wroxeter, in Shropshire.

"Here in the West of England, where Roman remains are so numerous, there are many opportunities for continuing this work; and it is now proposed to excavate and explore in a similar way some portion of the Roman remains at Caerwent, in Monmouthshire, the site of the ancient Venta Silurum.

"The City of Venta Silurum is situate on the Roman road between Isca Silurum (Caerleon) and Chepstow, and was one of the stations on the XIV *iter* in the Antonine Itinerary. Like Caerleon, it doubtless dates its origin from the time of the subjugation of the Silures by Ostorius and Frontinus in the years 50-75 A.D.

"The city itself is rectangular (about 500 x 400 yards in extent), and a large portion of the ancient city wall is still standing.

"Relics of the Roman City are constantly being found, including several fine pavements; but the only systematic exploration that has been carried out was done by Mr. Octavius Morgan, in 1855, when a house and some baths were excavated in the south-east quarter.

"A fine set of baths was discovered here, and a pavement which, with other things, was removed to Caerleon (see *Archæologia*, vol. xxxvi.). With this exception the Roman antiquities found in this interesting site have perished, and no record has been preserved until the year 1893, when Mr. Milverton Drake, in conducting some building operations, found another house, and planned as much of it as time would permit. An account of this will be found in the *Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, vol. iii., pp. 41-55.

"The houses and cottages of the more modern village of Caerwent will prevent a large part of the site being explored, but there are still some fields unoccupied by houses, and it is proposed to systematically excavate these and carefully plan the streets and houses, as has been done at Silchester. If possible the cemeteries will also be explored.

"With this object a committee has been formed, and it has been determined to appeal to those interested in archæology for help to provide the necessary funds.

"The executors of the late Mr. Lysaght have kindly given their permission to begin this summer with a field of about nine acres in the south-west quarter of the city; and Mr. and Mrs. Till, the tenants, have not only most kindly given their consent, but are also helping the undertaking in every way.

"In April last, the Local Secretary for Gloucestershire brought the matter before the Society of Antiquaries, and the Council of that Society has made a contribution to the fund."

The Hon. Treasurer is Alfred E. Hudd, Esq., F.S.A., 94, Pembroke Road, Clifton, and the Hon. Secretary A. T. Martin, Esq., F.S.A., Rodborough House, Percival Road, Clifton.



## Antiquarian News.

[We shall be glad to receive information from our readers for insertion under this heading.]

### PROCEEDINGS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

The eleventh CONGRESS OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETIES, in union with the Society of Antiquaries, was held on Wednesday, July 12, at Burlington House, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Viscount Dillon, president of the Society of Antiquaries. There was a large attendance of delegates from the various national and local societies.

Mr. Ralph Nevill, F.S.A., was re-elected as hon. secretary, and thanks were returned for his past services.

The Hon. Secretary reported that the committee had provisionally arranged with Messrs. Constable to at once publish Mr. Gomme's General Index of Archæological Papers from 1682-1891, the work to be issued to subscribers in simple binding at the price advertised, and the connection of the Congress with it to be suitably acknowledged. Messrs. Constable had also agreed to undertake the issue to the societies subscribing for it of the Annual Index, at the same price as hitherto paid. The Hon. Secretary pointed out that the issue of the Annual Index, the collection of subscriptions, and the storage of surplus copies and subsequent sale of separate parts, involved arduous clerical work, from which it was most desirable that any hon. secretary should be relieved. He also pointed out that the object of the Congress, which was to bring about the publication of that valuable work, the General Index, and the very useful Annual Index, were satisfactorily attained by the proposed arrangement, and congratulated the Congress on having with



their very limited means achieved a work of such importance.

On the motion of Chancellor Ferguson, F.S.A., seconded by Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., F.S.A., the arrangement was approved, subject to an instruction (moved by Sir Ernest Clarke, and seconded by Mr. Phillimore) that due care should be taken that the Index should be issued to the Congress in a suitable form for their purpose, not disfigured by advertisements.

On the proposal of the President, the best thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Gomme for his liberality in giving the text for the General Index, and congratulations were offered him on the realization of his labour.

A long discussion then took place on the resolution proposed by Mr. Fry (hon. secretary of the British Record Society) for the better preservation of certain classes of records.

On the motion of Mr. Fry, seconded by Dr. Holt-house, it was resolved that "the Congress of Archaeological Societies in union with the Society of Antiquaries, having regard to the revelations relating to the custody and condition of wills, parish registers, and other public documents in the recent Shipway pedigree case, in which so many documents were forged and stolen, considers that steps should be taken to recommend Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the subject of the better preservation and arrangement of such records, whereby such practices may be rendered impossible in the future."

On reassembling after lunch, the Hon. Secretary gave an account of the work taken in hand by the newly-formed Lancashire, Shropshire, and Yorkshire Parish Register Societies, and called attention to the fact that not only was a complete and detailed list of registers being published by private effort in many dioceses, but the experience of the societies named, and particularly of the Shropshire Society, showed that the publication of all the parish registers in the country was well within the reach of private enterprise. The Yorkshire Society now numbers 227 members, paying a guinea a year, and has six registers in hand; the Lancashire is publishing five, and has more than ten ready; Shropshire, which by the aid of Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., has become a very strong society, has already published twelve registers, and has five more nearly ready.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Willis-Bund, F.S.A., the Hon. Secretary gave some account of the very complete way in which the Worcestershire County Council Records were being treated under Mr. Willis-Bund's care.

Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., mentioned the subject of the proposed Catalogue of Effigies, as to which active steps had been delayed owing to shortness of funds.

Chancellor Ferguson placed on the table the volume containing the illustrated list of effigies in the diocese of Carlisle, published by the Cumberland and Westmoreland Society, and gave some account of the method employed in the compilation.

On behalf of the Wiltshire Society, the Rev. VOL. XXXV.

E. H. Goddard, M.A., exhibited two completed books of Portrait Catalogues, now the property of their society. Regulation copies of these had been deposited with the National Portrait Gallery. Catalogues of other collections were in progress.

The Rev. J. C. Cox, LL.D., F.S.A., gave an account of the manner in which it was proposed by Messrs. Constable to prepare and publish the proposed series of Victoria County Histories projected by Mr. G. L. Gomme, F.S.A., and Mr. Round bore testimony to the close scrutiny to which he had subjected the proposal, and his satisfaction with the result. After considerable discussion, it was resolved that "this Congress is glad to hear of the project of a complete series of county histories, termed the 'Victoria History of the Counties of England,' and hopes that every assistance will be rendered by the various Archaeological Societies."

In connection with the subject, attention was directed to the fact which the Committee had mentioned in their report, that no archaeological surveys of counties had been recently published, and Mr. Manning then drew attention to the Survey of Oxfordshire made by him and hung upon the wall, and it was stated that the Survey for Northants was ready, and that for Derbyshire half done.

Mr. Gould drew attention to the importance of obtaining a complete record of defensive earthworks, many of which had never been recorded, and were in constant danger of destruction.

Mr. Gomme referred to the failure of the British Association Committee to obtain help for the projected Ethnographic Survey of Britain, information as to which was circulated by the Congress. He asked that the societies should be invited to assist the very interesting and desirable scheme by collecting and, if possible, publishing photographs (full and side face) of the typical inhabitants of each county, and by having a sufficient number of skull measurements taken by competent persons, so as to work out the physical characteristics of the people. Mention was made of the extremely valuable work done in this way for several counties by Dr. Beddoes, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to call the attention of the societies in union to the matter.

A hearty vote of thanks was then accorded to the President for the courteous and patient manner in which he had presided over a long meeting, to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of their rooms and their hospitality, and to the Hon. Secretary for his labours.



The fifty-sixth annual CONGRESS OF THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION opened in splendid weather on Monday, July 17. The inaugural address was delivered by Mr. H. A. Hubbersty, J.P., chairman of the local committee, in the absence of the President, the Marquis of Granby. In the course of it, Mr. Hubbersty gave a résumé of the succession of archaeological discoveries in Derbyshire from the Stone Age downwards, referring especially to the remarkable finds made by Mr. Micah Salt, of Buxton, in various caves of the

district, of remains of the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages. A full description of them was to be given by Mr. J. Ward, F.S.A., in the course of the week.

The real business of the meeting began on Tuesday with visits to Bakewell and Haddon Hall. Mr. I. C. Gould conducted the party to the summit of the Castle Hill overlooking the town. This so-called castle never was a "castle" in the strict sense, but, as Mr. Gould pointed out, a good example of an Anglo-Saxon earthwork. The central mound, occupying the place of the Norman keep, and the outer line of fortification of the "ballium," or enclosed court, are distinctly visible, in spite of the changes of nearly one thousand years. The Danes had held Leicester, Stamford, Northampton, and Derby; of these "burhs" they retained possession of Derby, and there is good presumptive evidence that it was to defend the people of Bakewell and to keep a firm hold on "Peakland," and prevent any invasions or disturbances there, that Edward the Elder constructed this earthwork, as is recorded in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, under date A.D. 924. The mound was enclosed by a wooden stockade or palisade, and from certain indications there was, at a later date, very probably a small stone tower in the centre. From the mound a delightful view of the country is obtained, with Bakewell lying in the hollow, and the hills forming an amphitheatre around it, every one of them having prehistoric remains in the shape of barrows, for the most part on their summits; while a little distance off up the valley a plateau cut out on the hillside seems to speak of an ancient "mote-place," or gathering-ground for the tribes.

From the castle the party proceeded to the church, so ancient in its history, so modern as far as the greater part of the actual building is concerned, for it was "restored" in 1824, 1841, and 1852. In the course of these restorations, the whole of the nave, aisles, tower, and spire were taken down and rebuilt. After inspecting the exterior of the building, the members and friends took their places in the church, when the Vicar first gave an account of the recent discovery of remains of the foundations of two Norman flanking towers at the west end, and of other works lately carried out. Dr. Cox then delivered an address, in which he gave a résumé of the history and architecture of the church.

In 1110 the cruciform church, with narrow aisles and Norman piers and arches, was commenced, about the same time as the round Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Northampton, which was built between 1098 and 1108. It was erected on the site of a previously existing Saxon church, which was probably 100 years old at the date which Mr. Gould assigned to the construction of the earthwork, A.D. 924. The two western towers beyond the present west wall were evidently never finished, for the steps have never been worn by the foot of man. Thus, the present beautiful west doorway is of later Norman work than the remaining piers and arch, having been built when the towers were abandoned and the wall pushed further east.

The church was founded by William Peveril, natural son of the Conqueror, who had vast posses-

sions in Derbyshire; but on the attainder of his descendant, William Peveril the younger, Henry II. bestowed the revenues on his son John, afterwards King. These were considerable, about £4,000 per annum present value. John gave them to his "well-beloved friend" the Bishop of Lichfield, from whom they passed in the course of the next hundred years to the Dean and Chapter. In 1280 Archbishop Peckham poured the vials of his wrath upon the Dean and Chapter for appropriating all to themselves and keeping the Vicar very poor. This seems to have been characteristic, for they had numerous quarrels on the subject of their revenues, as witness the long litigation with the abbey of Lenton.

In the thirteenth century the church was altered according to the prevailing style, and the beautiful Early English north doorway was put in. At the same time the south transept—still called locally the Newark, or "new work"—was erected. In the early part of the fourteenth century the chancel was built, and the Vernon Chapel in 1360. This was during a period of revival after the devastation caused by the Black Death in 1349. The octagon to the tower and spire, the clear-story, roof-beams, west window, are all Perpendicular, about 1400. As an illustration of "restoration," the west window was filled in 1852 with debased Decorated tracery!

In the afternoon a visit was paid to Haddon Hall, when a paper by Mr. Carrington, hon. librarian at Belvoir, "On the Family and Record History of Haddon," was read. Mr. Carrington traced the history and vicissitudes of the Hall from the days of the Peverils, through the Ferrars and Avenills, to the Vernons and Mannors, to each of which families it passed by female descent—in the latter case through the celebrated Dorothy Vernon, daughter of Sir George Vernon, the "King of the Peak," who married Sir John Mannors.—Mr. Gotch, F.S.A., followed with an admirable paper "On the Architecture of Haddon," in which he traced the marks left on the building by all the various families to whom it has belonged, until it became what Horace Walpole called it, and what it is to-day, "an abandoned old castle of the Rutlands in a romantic situation," for we have arrived at an age in which romance and beauty and rude plenty must give way to comfort and light and air. Mr. Gotch conducted the party through the building, pointing out all to which he had drawn attention in his paper, the Gothic banquetting-hall with its fine screen, the panelled withdrawing-room, and other parts connected with the Vernons, and especially with Sir George Vernon, who wrote up over his doorway, "God save the Vernon," and the splendid long gallery or ballroom of the early seventeenth century. Incidentally Mr. Gotch finally shattered all the romance connected with Dorothy Vernon. Dr. Cox, in the morning, had remarked that there was no need for an elopement, as Sir John Mannors was as good a match as the young lady could expect; and now it was pointed out that in any case the ballroom and the flight of steps and the terrace were none of them in existence till after her death. But romance is slow to die, and, as Mr. Gotch eloquently put it, in spite of all

that antiquaries may discover, Venus will still hold sway.

In the chapel—a most interesting little building, with south aisle, nave, and chancel—Dr. Cox gave another address descriptive of it.

At the evening meeting, in the Town Hall, the Rev. W. Fyldes read a paper "On the Roman Roads in the Neighbourhood of Buxton," dealing specially with two: (1) that from Little Chester, *viâ* Derby and Arbor Lowe, to Buxton; and (2) that from Brough.

A milestone on the former road was found in 1862, but it is mutilated, and the inscription almost illegible. It mentions an Emperor, and is "X miles" from somewhere. The latter is known to this day as Bathamgate, *i.e.*, "the road to the baths," pure Anglo-Saxon. From this and many other circumstances Mr. Fyldes argued the importance of Buxton as a Roman station and bath.

The second paper was by Mr. W. de Gray Birch, "On the Name of Matlock and the Ancient Lead Mines of Derbyshire," and was read in his absence by the Rev. H. D. Astley, hon. secretary. In it a graphic account of lead-mining in the county and the customs connected with it was given; but the most ingenious point was the suggestion made by Dr. Birch as to the origin of the name of Matlock. It is well known that numerous Roman pigs of lead have been found at Matlock and elsewhere bearing the inscription, "Met. Lut.," or "Metal. Lutud.," and one recently—that of P. Ruber Abascantus—bearing the words, "Metalli Lutudares." Dr. Birch connects *Lutudares* with Welsh *hlud*, or, more correctly, *llud* = lead, "the people of the lead-mining district," and then he suggests that Matlock is simply "Met. Lut.," after nearly two thousand years of vocal corruption.

On Wednesday, July 19, the party visited Tideswell Church, which was described by Canon Andrew, the Vicar. He said the present church was built about 1348, the time of the Black Death, as could be seen from the architecture of the building. The Norman church, built about 1080, had entirely disappeared with the exception of two stones. The roof of the present structure had been apparently "huddled on," perhaps from lack of funds, from the fact that the string-course was only begun in one corner and not continued. There was probably a Norman chancel arch originally as at Castleton. There were remains of no fewer than three sanctus-bell turrets at the junction of the nave and chancel. In the great tower there was a so-called sermon-bell of Cromwell's time. The Vicar went on to say that he had always made it a principle to resist "ignorant restoration." There did not seem to have been any religious house at Tideswell; the church had always been connected with the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield—at least, for the last thousand years. The church had been served by a body of secular Canons in an unbroken chain. At the east end the sacristy behind the reredos was remarkable. It was very conveniently situated, and was a sacristy pure and simple, the entrance being on the north side, while on the south it was shut off by a wall, and would never

therefore have been used for processions. The stone reredos was as fine and dignified as any in Europe. The names of the figures in the four niches were not known. The great tomb in the middle, of Sir Sampson Meverell, was of very considerable interest. They had been obliged to restore the sides, and they did the best they could, but not before a suggestion had been made to remove the tomb altogether. The old screen had suffered from mutilation. Some 8 inches from the bar which goes across where the tracery was intended to house itself they had distinct proof of that. When Grindall was Archbishop of Canterbury, he issued an order that the lower part of the screen might be retained, but that the upper portion must be taken away as containing ornaments which the Puritan party in England, then very strong, did not care for: "Ornaments were to be destroyed, defaced, abolished"—a compendious act—and so the tops were cut off. In repairing it, the stone top of the reredos was copied and put in deal upon the top of the mutilated screen; but this had now been removed, and the screen restored on the ancient model. There was a watching-chamber over the porch, and there may be found in that porch two little crosses, 3 inches each way. It has been supposed that these were consecration crosses, but that was probably a mistake. A great deal of work was done by lawyers in the porches of important churches. The notary public would have his clerk and his clients there, and he believed those little crosses were for the public to put their bonds on, just the same as they made crosses now.

The party then went on to Eyam, where the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. Freeman, described the church, in which there is very little old work left, only one pillar at the west end. The story of the introduction of the Plague in 1666, and of the devotion shown by Mr. Mompesson (the Vicar) and his wife is well known. An old carved oak chair is shown in the chancel of the church as having belonged to Mr. Mompesson, and an ancient font found on the moor is said to have been the one used by him. The register containing the names of all who died in the Plague was exhibited, but it is evidently a copy by a later hand, not the original. The most interesting thing at Eyam for the archaeologist is the pre-Norman cross in the churchyard, which was described by Mr. Lynam, F.S.A. This, like the old font, was found on the moor, and erected in its present position by Howard the philanthropist. The shaft was originally longer by 2 or 3 feet, as may be seen by noticing that the junction of the cross with the shaft leaves 2 or 3 inches margin on each side. The ornamentation is pure Saxon.

At the evening meeting in the Town Hall, Dr. Brushfield, F.S.A., read a most interesting paper on "Funeral Garlands," giving a full account of the origin and meaning of the custom, and referring especially to Ashford Church, where five are still in existence, and Matlock, where there are six. They were always used at the funerals of young unmarried girls of good character, but whether in every case they were betrothed maidens or not is uncertain. Shakespeare refers to the custom at the

funeral of Ophelia in *Hamlet*, where the first priest speaks of "her virgin crants," which the editors of the folios changed to "rites."

Mr. Charles Lynam, F.S.A., then read a paper on the pre-Norman crosses of Bakewell, Eyam, and Hope, and referred to the valuable work done on the subject by the Bishop of Bristol, Rev. Dr. Cox, and Mr. Romilly Allen.

On Thursday, July 20, the prehistoric stone circles at Arbor Lowe, Hartington, and Alstonfield were visited. Dr. Brushfield described Arbor Lowe, and showed—from a comparison of it with Avebury and Stonehenge, and from the remains found by Mr. Bateman in the barrow at the north-east corner and at Gib Hill, an artificial mound skirted by the old Roman road a little distance off—that it is the earliest neolithic monument in Britain. There are thirty-two stones in the circle, all lying prostrate, but these must originally have been erect. The dolmen in the centre is now level with the ground. The mound and ditch—the latter being inside, between the mound and the stone circle—are in a very perfect condition, notwithstanding the lapse of time and the ravages of succeeding generations. There are two openings, on the north-east and south-west. There are no remains of any monolithic galleries, as at Avebury and Carnac. Gib Hill bears the same relation to Arbor Lowe that Silbury Hill does to Avebury. It is impossible to arrive at the origin of the name, though from the local pronunciation of Arbor as "Artor" it would seem as though popular tradition connected it with "Arthur." "Lowe" is the Saxon word for "barrow." It was evidently the burial-place of some great primeval hero or chieftain, with whom King Arthur may have been associated, as is so often the case in popular tales, and as time went on it may have been used as a place of religious resort; but, in the opinion of Mr. Lynam, who followed, any idea of temple or sacrifice must be at once discarded.

At the evening meeting an exhaustive paper on "Defensive Earthworks," referring especially to those remaining in Derbyshire, was read by Mr. I. C. Gould; and a paper by Mr. J. Ward, F.S.A., on "The Archaeology of Derbyshire," was read in the author's absence by the Rev. H. D. Astley, hon. secretary. Mr. Ward said that Derbyshire, in proportion to its size, was unsurpassed by any other county in respect to its antiquities. The small cave at Cresswell yielded more remarkable results than any other, except Kent's Hole, Torquay. There were found remains in Derbyshire which showed several races of men. Mr. Ward next touched on the fauna and flora, the barrows and sepulchral remains. Among the articles enumerated were drinking-cups, incense-cups, flakes and rude implements, bronzes, pins, etc. All the evidence proved Buxton was a place of resort in Roman times.

Mr. Lynam hoped the people of Derbyshire who were interested in defensive earthworks and other matters brought before the Congress would carry investigation further.

On Friday, July 21, Castleton, Hope, and Hathersage were visited, including Mam Tor, with

the grand prehistoric earthwork on its summit, of which an account had been given by Mr. Gould on the previous evening. Mr. Blashill described the ancient castle of the Peverils, from which the place takes its name. It is situated on an almost inaccessible rock promontory overlooking the town, and must have been an impregnable fortress in early days. It was founded by William Peveril, who is usually considered to have been a natural son of William the Conqueror, though Mr. Andrew, of the Numismatic Society, and a keen local antiquary, gave reasons for believing that he was in reality a son-in-law of the Conqueror. A considerable portion of the outer wall of circumvallation remains, but the present late Norman keep stands at one corner instead of in the centre of the enclosure, which seems to point to the existence of an earlier Saxon fortress on the same spot. There is no evidence, however, of a castle having been here prior to the Conquest, and the "herring-bone" masonry in the outer wall was probably the work of Saxon artificers employed by the first Peveril soon after that event. The true date of the foundation may be taken as 1068, the same year that Nottingham Castle was built.

At Hope, the church and pre-Norman cross were described by Mr. Lynam, F.S.A. The church has been "restored" and not improved by the present Vicar. The pulpit is curious, dating from the Commonwealth. The carving is fine, and the name of "Thomas Bocking, Teacher"—a quaint illustration of the mode of thought of the day—and those of the churchwardens, with the date "1652," are carved upon it.

At Hathersage, on the road to which the Roman camp at Brough, from which the "Bathamgate" goes in a direct line to Buxton, was passed, Mr. Lynam described the church; the Vicar gave an account of the Eyre family, mentioning the tradition that the name is derived from the circumstance that the founder of the family loosened the Conqueror's visor at Hastings, so giving him "air"; Mr. A. Oliver described the magnificent Eyre brass in the chancel; and Mr. Gould conducted the party over the ancient earthwork. This latter is circular, and may therefore be Danish, in Mr. Gould's opinion. Half the line of the vallum and fosse remains fairly perfect, but the Vicarage garden cuts into the rest.

At Hathersage churchyard is shown the grave of "Little John," 10 feet 6 inches long.

At the evening meeting the three concluding papers of the Congress were read. The first paper was by Mr. John Ward, F.S.A., "On the Discoveries of Mr. Micah Salt, of Buxton," and was read, in his absence, by Mr. G. Patrick, hon. secretary. Mr. Ward dealt more particularly with Deep Dale Cave, giving a full account of the excavation of that cavern, more especially the first chamber, and the objects found therein by Mr. Micah Salt. He then proceeded to notice Grinlow, Fairfield Low, Thirkelow, Thirkelow Frith, and Stoop High Edge barrow, where a bronze blade was found, together with flint implements and decorated pottery. He called attention to a rock-shelter in Lovers' Leap, and a small cave near the



gasworks, which had been inhabited, and then dealt with the very large number of flints discovered close together in a field at Brierlow Farm, near Buxton, a new and interesting find, since nothing like a flint factory had before been proved to exist in Derbyshire. He mentioned also what appeared to be pit-dwellings on Ravens Low, near the Goyt Valley. At Gospel Hillock, King Stern-dale, Mr. Salt had discovered an interment under a large flag-stone. The bones were much decayed, but the interesting point was the covering of the body with grass mixed in clay. The grass still retained its shape and colour, but immediately faded when exposed to the air. This was a very old interment, the body being laid in the "contracted position." Mr. Bateman noticed these grasses in his work.

Mr. Andrew Oliver followed with a paper on "The Monumental Brasses of Derbyshire," in which a full description was given, and a rubbing shown of every brass now existing in the county.

The last paper was by the Rev. H. D. Astley, hon. secretary, on "Jet and Cannel Coal Ornaments and Slate Implements," illustrated with numerous drawings of the crannog at Dumbuck, and an exhibition of the objects found there, kindly lent by Mr. Donnelly, the discoverer. From an exhaustive survey of such ornaments and implements found in our own and other countries, special reference being made to the many interesting discoveries of that age in Derbyshire, and a comparison of the ancient remains with those still used by, and with the customs of, people still in the neolithic stage of culture, Mr. Astley argued that the Dumbuck crannog is a monument of the later Stone Age. Mr. Lynam suggested that the second chamber in the Deep Dale cavern needs further exploration, and Dr. Brushfield expressed his hearty concurrence with the views of the writer of the last paper.

On Saturday, July 22, the party was divided, some proceeding to examine the earthworks on Coombs Moss and Blackstone Edge, under the guidance of Mr. Gould; others driving to Ashford and Taddington to visit the churches. The concluding meeting was held in the Town Hall at three o'clock. The success of the Congress is largely due to the local hon. sec., Mr. W. R. Bryden, F.R.I.B.A., whose energy and zeal were beyond praise.—*Communicated by the Hon. Editorial Secretary.*



## Reviews and Notices of New Books.

**YULE AND CHRISTMAS: THEIR PLACE IN THE GERMANIC YEAR.** By Alexander Tille. London: David Nutt, 1899. 8vo., pp. 218.

The present work follows up others on kindred topics by the same author, but published in Germany. Dr. Tille devotes successive chapters to the Germanic Year, the Beginning of the Anglo-German Year, the Feast of Martinmas, Martinmas

and the Tri-partition of the Year, Martinmas and the Dual Division of the Year, Martinmas and Michaelmas, Solstices and Equinoxes, the Calends of January, Tabula Fortunæ, the Nativity of Christ, Bede de Mensibus Anglorum, Nativity, Christes Mæss and Christmas, the Scandinavian Year, Scandinavian Offering Tides, the Scandinavian Yule, and finally sums up his results. He shows that the year of the early Teutonic tribes consisted of but two seasons, summer and winter, as is evidenced by the fact that the words "summer" and "winter," which are not found in other Aryan languages, are common to all the Teutonic tongues; while the names of the other seasons and of the months vary in every dialect, and hence are comparatively modern. The beginning of the year was reckoned from the beginning of the winter season, a date corresponding very nearly with our Martinmas; this is still the beginning of the year for farm-servants in the English county (Derby) in which these lines are being written. Oriental and Egyptian influences led to the division of these two seasons into six "tides" of threescore days, which were grouped into two or three periods as occasion required. (Traces of this division survived in England in the days of Bede, when in two instances two consecutive months were known by the same name.) Then came contact with Roman civilization, with its calculation from solstices and equinoxes, and its division of the calendar into months and quarters, the dates of which were far from corresponding to the old threescore-day tides. Gradually economic changes, consequent on improved agriculture, threw the winter slaughtering season later in the year; and when the Church instituted its Nativity festival at the end of December, it presently took over the festivities of the November New-Year feast. The Roman calendar, with ecclesiastical additions, finally superseded the old Germanic and heathen one; while the Roman secular and pagan forms of merry-making on the Calends of January were adopted bodily, and now form what are popularly supposed to be some of the specially German characteristics of a specially German festival.

So far, Professor Tille has given us the best and fullest work on the subject that has yet appeared in English, and his argument is specially well worked out on the economic and practical side, a side which too often receives insufficient attention from folklorists. But we think his treatment of fire ceremonies and festivals decidedly inadequate, and the absence of any comparison with the Celtic reckoning of the year seems greatly to detract from the certainty of his conclusions. And we must demur strongly to the constantly underlying assumption that the first historical record of a custom is equivalent to the first institution of a custom. It no more follows that because it is recorded that William the Norman held high festival at Christmas, no English King had done so before him, than it follows that because it is recorded that Athelstan of Wessex was crowned King of the Mercians at Kingston-on-Thames, no Mercian King had ever been crowned there before him. And so in other cases.

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**RECORDS OF THE BOROUGH OF LEICESTER.** Edited by Mary Bateson. With a Preface by the Lord Bishop of London. Facsimiles. London: *C. J. Clay and Sons*, Cambridge University Press, 1899. 8vo., pp. lxviii, 448. Price 25s. net.

This volume of upwards of 500 pages consists of a series of extracts from the archives of the Corporation of Leicester from 1103 to 1327.

The earliest charter is one of Robert Count of Meulan to his Leicester merchants, and this is followed by a writ of Henry I. concerning the tolls on the Earl of Leicester's men at Oxford. The ninth document is the charter of King John to the burgesses, dated December 26, 1199.

The first Merchant Gild Roll, which consists of eleven membranes, begins with the year 1196, and goes down to the year 1225. The second Gild Roll extends from 1234 to 1274. Other rolls continue the records of the Merchant Gild to the end of Edward II. There are also many valuable Tallage rolls from 1269 onwards. A highly interesting document in Norman-French is the long charter of Edmund Crouchback, reforming the procedure of the Leicester Portmanmoot, dated 1277.

The first Mayor's account begins with the year 1300. An important part of the early Mayors' accounts is the record of presents made on behalf of the Corporation. Lawrence le Seelar, Mayor of Leicester 1307-8, renders account for four gallons of wine sent to the Steward of the Honour of Leicester on the Feast of the Translation; and also elaborate presents in kind to the Lord King on his first coming from Scotland. These presents to royalty included saffron and pepper, 3d.; ginger powder and condiment, 8d.; garlic and onions, 1½d.; three legs of pork, 3d.; two carcases of beef, 20s.; and one tun of wine. The total expenditure by the Mayor on this royal visit amounted to £8 18s. 9d.

Of all the various documents amid these early archives, those which yield the most vivid insight into the town life of a thriving borough at the beginning of the fourteenth century are the Coroners' Rolls, which extend from 1297 to 1326. The first entry is of a thief who fled to the Church of St. Margaret, and stayed there for twelve days. Every church was a sanctuary, and no malefactor could be taken by force therefrom; it was the duty of the authorities to beset the church, so as to prevent the escape of the prisoner, and send for a coroner. The coroner parleyed with the refugee, who had his choice between submitting to trial and abjuring the realm. In this case the thief chose trial for various robberies; the jury found him guilty, and he was hung.

The very next entry concerns another thief, who fled to the Church of St. John; but he confessed to a burglary, and abjured the realm of England, forfeited his chattels, and had the port of Dover assigned to him.

These records are printed in extended Latin, with the translation on the lower half of the page; they have had the advantage of being revised by Mr. Stevenson, of Exeter College, Oxford, and also by Archdeacon Stocks, Vicar of St. Saviour's, Leicester, a local antiquary of no mean repute,

The work seems to have been accomplished with exceptional accuracy. In cutting the leaves, four mistakes were noticed; but on consulting a list of errata, which had been overlooked, it was found that each of them had been corrected.

At the beginning of the volume Miss Bateson gives a most admirable Introduction of sixty-three pages. It is there pointed out that in the history of English boroughs, Leicester is a peculiarly interesting example, because it differed so strongly from the normal type. In its early history it was abnormal, inasmuch as it was one of the five Danish Burhs. At a later period it was again rendered abnormal through being handed over by the King to the power of a great lord. Much light is thrown in this introduction on such questions as Manorialism in the Fields, the Burghal Courts, the Merchant Gild, and the power of the Earl's Steward. As Miss Bateson well remarks, "These records treat of mediæval life almost exclusively from one point of view, that of the Town Clerk. Politics, religion, morals, sentiment, were all alike alien to his purpose. But his prosy record of matter of fact has a charm of its own altogether apart from its historical value."

It is perhaps a hackneyed term for a reviewer to use, but of this volume it may be conscientiously said that it is of extreme value to the historian of English towns, and ought to be on the shelves of every antiquary interested in municipal development. It is much to be hoped that future volumes dealing with the later Leicester records will be forthcoming in due course.

J. CHARLES COX, LL.D., F.S.A.

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**ALFRED THE GREAT, CONTAINING CHAPTERS ON HIS LIFE AND TIMES.** By Frederic Harrison, the Lord Bishop of Bristol, Professor Oman, Sir Clements Markham, Rev. Professor Earle, Sir F. Pollock, and Rev. W. J. Loftie. Also containing an Introduction by Sir Walter Besant, and a poem by the Poet Laureate. Edited by Alfred Bowker. Illustrated. London: *A. and C. Black*, 1899. 8vo., pp. xii, 260. Price 5s.

This timely volume is dedicated to our Queen, who traces her descent through thirty-two generations and forty-eight sovereigns to the hero King of Wessex, Alfred the Great. It consists of a compact bundle of essays written by specialists concerning the various phases of his manifold energy, and it is timely because, none too soon, it comes to inform and interest all English-speaking people about their greatest forefather, the one thousandth anniversary of whose death is shortly to be commemorated.

Tradition gives October 26, 901, as the date when Alfred closed a career of fifty-two years full of noble aspirations and immense achievements. By a caprice of the schools, the average study of English history begins from the Normans of 1066; those very people who take a just pride in their acquaintance with a Pericles or a Julius must confess to knowing little of him who, less time ago, and nearer home, earned the name of "the most perfect character in history." Dry lore and delicately-woven legend have both indeed been busy

with his fame through centuries. The present volume, while not pretending to exhaust the available materials, puts reliable facts and generous appreciations before us. Every lover of this country of historical scenes and of high example, who is still willing to learn, should welcome the book.

The general remarks of Sir Walter Besant create an atmosphere in which we see more clearly the Alfred drawn by the essayists; Mr. Harrison, who loyally promotes that enthusiasm for the King's memory which he initiated some months ago, hits upon the phrase "sagacious heroism" to express the man. Heroic Alfred was in no uncertain sense, and Aristotle would have claimed in him the *beau-ideal* of practical wisdom. He toiled devotedly for the public good, and gave his kingdom security for dismay, order for chaos. Himself happy in his family, he befriended the friendless and kept himself unspotted from the world. These essays well illustrate, with the light of such evidences as modern science has added to traditions, this pre-eminent career in which the saint was joined with the publicist. Perhaps the most solid contributions are the essays upon his legislation and his warfare, by Sir F. Pollock and Professor Oman respectively. The latter gives a lucid narrative of the campaigns of "this untiring pursuer" of the Danes; the former shows how modern learning, since the days of even Kemble and Thorpe, has found what Alfred's institutions really were. Many readers will be astonished to read that "in his methods, in his scientific accuracy, and in his aims, he was several centuries in advance of his time," and this in several branches of culture. His vision of national education was worthy of any age.

Perhaps the chief new item of information given in the book is Professor Earle's record (at p. 172) of a letter of Pope Leo IV., announcing the safe arrival in Rome of Alfred, then a child of four. One could have wished that this contributor had spoken more fully of the remarkable version of *Boethius* than he has thought fit to do. It is there that Alfred's personality is most nearly approached. Professor Oman, too, might have added at p. 143 that Alfred's clever deviation of the Lea into rivulets for the exhaustion of the stream was probably taken from the story of Cyrus' similar ruse at Babylon, given in the history of Orosius, which Alfred had translated. By a small error, needing correction in future editions, the famous Alfred Jewel—cleverly figured on the cover of this volume—is said (at p. 89) to be kept in the Bodleian at Oxford; it was in the Old Ashmolean, and is now in the New, the most precious personal relic of all English history.

The names of the distinguished contributors warrant the reliability of this book. We hope that many will find in its lucid and attractive pages an incentive to assist by zealous sympathy, if not by purse, in the commemoration of him whom Milton styled "the Mirror of Princes." Whatever more exhaustive life may be forthcoming, these studies should help many to a fresh field of knowledge, and so to—

"See him as he moved:  
How modest, kindly, all-accomplish'd, wise,  
With what sublime repression of himself;  
Not making his high place the lawless perch  
Of wing'd ambitions, nor a vantage-ground  
For pleasure; but thro' all this tract of years  
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life."

WARWICK H. DRAPER.

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The bibliography of that much discussed and disputed subject, the use and object of "low side-windows" in churches, must be tolerably extensive. The latest contribution thereto is *The Low Side-Windows of Sussex Churches*, by Philip Mainwaring Johnston, which has been kindly sent us by the author. The pamphlet is reprinted from vol. xlii. of the *Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections*, and is in continuation of a former paper in vol. xli. of the same *Collections*. Mr. Johnston's paper is well illustrated, and discusses the subject from the point of view of a large number of examples of such windows in Sussex churches. His conclusion, which many antiquaries will not accept, is that "we have the strongest possible grounds for believing that the low side-windows in chancels and elsewhere served the same purpose as the low side-windows in anchorites' cells; and that, whether or no the former were made to accommodate the friars and regular clergy (who, as well as the secular clergy, used the parish churches), they originated in the great extension of the practice of private confession in the thirteenth century, and continued in use mainly for that purpose for nearly three hundred years."

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In the *Essex Review* for July Mr. George Jackson writes on "Essex in Literature." Although one or two names are rather dragged in—their connection with Essex is certainly of the slightest—yet the paper as a whole makes excellent reading. There are also papers on "Elizabeth Ogborne," one of the historians of the county, by Mr. E. A. Fitch; and on "The Real Southend," by Mrs. Coulson Kernahan. Local Notes, Notes and Queries, etc., complete a capital and well-illustrated number.

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The August number of the *Genealogical Magazine* contains the continuation of Mr. A. C. Fox-Davies' paper on "The Arms, Crest, and Supporters of Stourton," and a short article on "The Archiepiscopal Seals of Canterbury and York," by Mr. J. Gale Pedrick. Several serials are continued, and, besides other short notes, there is a forcible letter by Sir R. P. Edgcumbe on "The Deceased Wife's Sister." In the short introduction prefixed to this letter, the curious fact—probably unknown to many of our readers—is stated that "a peculiarity of the Manx law regarding marriages already celebrated under the forbidden relationship is, that whilst the children are illegitimate during the lives of the parents, the death of either parent legitimizes the children."

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To the *Berks, Bucks, and Oxon Archaeological Journal* for July the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, F.S.A., contributes the report of the Berks Archaeological Society,

which records much good work. Dr. Macnamara continues his series of papers on "Historic Houses" with an article on "King John's Palace at Little Langley, Oxfordshire." Several serial papers are continued, and there are the usual Proceedings of Societies, Notes, and Gossip.

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The principal papers in the *Reliquary* for July (*Bemrose and Sons, Limited*) are: The second part of Mr. Philibert Feasey's instructive article on "The Instrument of the Rosary"; a particularly interesting and admirably illustrated paper on the "Antiquities of Bolsterstone and Neighbourhood," by Mr. Joseph Kenworthy; "The Grinlow Barrow, Buxton," by Mr. John Ward, F.S.A.; and a shorter contribution by Mr. David MacRitchie on "Two Midlothian Souterrains." The "Notes on Archæology and Kindred Subjects" are varied and interesting, and the whole number, as usual, is well and abundantly illustrated.



## Correspondence.

### SILCHESTER.

TO THE EDITOR.

"FITZ GLANVIL," in the *Antiquary* for August, opens out some new points on this subject, which seem to require explanation. We know that Eppillus "com-fil." reigned at "Calla"; but Calleva was not at Silchester, but near Reading. Has any coin of Eppillus ever been found at Silchester? Caer Segont was no doubt the British name of Silchester. But if the Segontiacs were driven out from it by the Attrebates, it is not very likely that they would emigrate so far as Carnarvon for a new settlement. Moreover, Carnarvon was called Caer Seiont or Seiant. Where is the evidence that Silchester was ever occupied by the Second Legion? And it would appear rather far distant from the Saxon shore to have constituted the main force of the Court there, and it is not clear by what name in the Notitia it is defined. Scilechester seems a name not previously met with, and it would be satisfactory to know where it is to be found in 788.

H. F. N.

### THE MYNNES OF NORFOLK.

TO THE EDITOR.

Would any reader kindly inform me if the Mynnes of Norfolk (Henry VIII.) were kinsmen of the Mymme or Mymmes of Hertfordshire? The arms are quartered in Hertingfordbury Church—Boteler Mymmes and Gravely—also in Watton, Herts.

In an old book I bought the other day—*Survey of Popery*, no date, black-letter, probably circa 1587—it is stated that Henry Mynnes, kinsman of Sir Thomas Bullen, Earl of Wilts, was kinsman of Queen Elizabeth; and I note they had extensive holdings of

Church property granted to them by Henry VIII. in Norfolk, also by Queen Elizabeth (see Gough on Norfolk).

The name is very similar, and *m* and *n* were used indiscriminately. It is spelled "Mymme" in the Latin induction of John Mymme, St. Peter's, St. Albans.

Another curious point is Sir — Hoo, of Herts, is executor to one Nicholas Mynnes, of Norfolk. Would the family in Norfolk be kinsmen to the Herts? Can any reader kindly enlighten by old brass-rubbings, etc.?

CONYERS BURTON.

### FRODESLEY DOMESDAY EXTRACT AND WILL.

TO THE EDITOR.

Mr. Britton's extract from Domesday, given at page 214, is very far from being accurate. The following is, I believe, a correct translation of the passage relating to Frodesley:

"Siward holds of the Earl (Roger) Frodeslege. He also held it (in the Confessor's time), and was a free-man. Here is one hide, geldable. The land is sufficient for four ox-teams. Here three villeins and three boors have one team. Here is a wood which will fatten one hundred swine, and here are three hayes. The manor was formerly worth ten shillings (per annum); it is now worth eight shillings."

Mr. Britton has mistaken the Domesday "&" throughout for the figure "7," which in some measure it resembles; and he has also coined several rather extraordinary Latin words, including one *Greek*.

The Will of Robert de Longedon is on the whole correctly given, but after the word "Longodn" occur the words "rector de frodesley." "Capellanus Edwardo" should read "capellano Truardo." "Omnipotente" should be "omnipotenti," and "sepelandum," "sepeliendum." "Maream" should read "marcam" (half a mark), and "item in ecclesiam" "idem in ecclesia." "Patre" is wrong in the last clause; it should read "fratre." Mr. Britton has omitted altogether the last clause of the Will, which runs on thus: "Item lego Johanni filio fratris mei unam marcam. Anno domini millesimo, tricesimo, sexagesimo primo."

It may be added that Robert de Longedon was instituted to the Free Chapel of Frodesley on October 31, 1358, his patron being John Horrold, Lord of Frodesley, and he was succeeded in 1361 by John de Longenorle.

W. G. D. F.

NOTE TO PUBLISHERS.—We shall be particularly obliged to publishers if they will always state the price of books sent for review.

TO INTENDING CONTRIBUTORS.—Unsolicited MSS. will always receive careful attention, but the Editor cannot return them if not accepted unless a fully stamped and directed envelope is enclosed. To this rule no exception will be made.